

Berri scoffs at rightist plan

BEIRUT (R) — Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri on Friday rejected as "tragic and comic" a report that a new Lebanese peace plan is being drafted by right-wing Christian leaders. "We can only describe it as both tragic and comic," Mr. Berri, pro-Syrian leader of the Shi'ite Amal militia, told reporters. It was his first public response to the press report that Christians who opposed an earlier Syrian-backed peace accord were preparing their own plan to end 11 years of civil war. Some 800 people have been killed since the Syrian-mediated accord signed by three militia chiefs, including Mr. Berri, was wrecked by a headline Christian revolt in January. Mr. Berri accused Christians of exploiting a "Zionist-American onslaught against Syria... and worsening economic and social conditions in Lebanon" to further the latest plan, said to envisage limited reforms favouring Muslims.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Chernobyl death toll put at 13

MOSCOW (AP) — An American doctor treating victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident indicated on Friday that the death toll has reached 13. A Soviet newspaper said five were firefighters who braved fierce radiation to battle flames engulfing the nuclear reactor. Dr. Robert Gale, who left Moscow shortly after giving interviews to U.S. television correspondents, told ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" and the Cable News Network that only 24 of the 35 people previously listed in grave condition still were alive. "We are unfortunately having deaths on a continuing basis, although nothing happened in the last day," Dr. Gale said in the interview with CNN. He declined to say when the latest deaths occurred. But on Thursday, he told a news conference that 28 of the 35 most seriously injured were alive. Reports in three different Soviet newspapers on Friday identified eight people who died after the nuclear accident (See page 8).

Volume 11 Number 3173

AMMAN, SATURDAY MAY 17, 1986, RAMADAN 9, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends good wishes to Norway

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of congratulations to King Olav V of Norway on Friday on the occasion of Norway's National Day. The King wished King Olav V, the Norwegian government and people further success and prosperity.

Runner leaves starting gate to 'run the world'

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A Sudanese officer, carrying a burning charcoal ember in an Olympic torch, set off Friday on a 14-nation "race against time," launching the Sportaid ext-ravaganza to raise funds for African famine victims. Lt. Khalifa Omer ran under a broiling sun from a sports stadium some 4 kilometres to the Beit Al Khalifa square in nearby Omdurman on the first leg of a journey to end May 25 at the United Nations in New York. (See story on page 6) Omer was to fly later Friday from Khartoum to Athens, Greece, one of 12 European capitals where he will carry the torch to dramatise the plight of Africa's famine victims.

Satti murder gun found in Ankara

ANKARA (R) — A handgun found in an Ankara park has been identified as that used to kill Jordanian First Secretary Ziad Satti last July, a senior police officer said Friday. The police officer told Reuters a gardener discovered the Soviet-made Mukarov semi-automatic 9-mm pistol in February, buried and wrapped in a plastic bag together with eight bullets. Ballistic experts identified it as the one used to kill Mr. Satti on July 24. There were no fingerprints. The gunman shot the envoy five times as he sat in his car at a traffic light in the Cankaya district of the city while on his way to work. The killer was never caught.

French government beats censure motion

PARIS (AP) — The first censure motion against the two-month-old conservative French government was defeated on Friday, as expected, in the National Assembly. That automatically passed the first reading of the government's bill giving it power to rule by decree on immediate economic issues such as privatisation of major banks and companies, as the government had made it an issue of confidence.

Cook Island says no to Marcos, Duvalier

AUCKLAND (AP) — The prime minister of the Cook Islands said Friday he has turned down requests that his tiny South Pacific island nation grant sanctuary to deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. Sir Thomas Davis said he was approached by a Swiss banker who also sounded him out for a similar arrangement with former Haitian "President-for-life" Jean-Claude Duvalier. Davis did not say when the subject of havens in the South Pacific for Marcos and Duvalier were raised.

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Khaddam: Syria will reply with all its force against Israeli attacks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam has been quoted as saying his country would respond with "all the potential it possesses" to any Israeli attack, and played down the chances of a U.S. military blow.

Mr. Khaddam made the statements in an interview published in the latest issue of the Paris-based Lebanese magazine Al Mostakbal, which goes on the newsstands on Saturday. Asked about "American threats" of action against Syria over charges of "terrorist" links, Mr. Khaddam was quoted as saying: "Despite all we hear about statements attributed to officials in that country, we would like to think there are persons who use their heads and are capable of assessing stands and calculating consequences."

"However, without talking too much about this subject, I say in a few words that Syria is not an easy prey and the road to it is not strewn with roses. The Syrians possess the means, will and determination to repel aggression and inflict harm on the aggressor. Syria is not seeking aggression, but we also hate to see it exercised against us."

Mr. Khaddam's interview follows an assertion in Washington that the U.S. government refuses to be pushed into acting against Syria until it evaluates evidence allegedly linking Damascus to recent guerrilla attacks in Europe. "We are looking at the evi-

dence, and we and the other governments will make up our minds what is that we think needs to be done," Robert B. Oakley, director of the U.S. State Department's office for counter-terrorism, told a news conference Thursday. "There are a lot of different elements to the relationship with Syria," Mr. Oakley said.

He was responding to a question about "evidence" from Britain, West Germany and Israel implicating Syria in a West Berlin bombing and an abortive attempt to smuggle a bomb aboard an Israeli El Al jetliner at London's Heathrow airport.

"I know people would like to push us into doing things or saying things which would be tantamount of push us into doing things, but we're not going to bite (do it)," Mr. Oakley said.

Mr. Khaddam denied that Syria has been involved in "terrorist" acts anywhere in Europe, saying: "All that is said about our support of terrorism is not true. These charges are only an excuse to prepare military aggression against us, but Syria is not afraid and the Syrians are not worried."

He said the Syrian government supports liberation forces such as the national resistance in Lebanon

and the Palestinians.

Mr. Khaddam also denied that Syria was preparing for war against Israel, but warned it will forcefully strike back if attacked.

"In view of the increasing Israeli threats, we emphasise that aggression against Syria is no longer a picnic. Syria will respond with all the potential it possesses," Mr. Khaddam said.

"We realise that aggression and expansion are part of the strategy of the Israelis, but we, too, have our policy based on defending our country and honour," he added.

Tension has been running high between Syria and Israel adversaries since Israel claimed the Syrians have advanced their tank positions in southeastern Lebanon forward toward Israeli lines.

The United States has urged both nations to exercise restraint.

All 'quiet' on truce line

A report by U.N. observers along the Syria-Israel ceasefire line says there has been no build-up by either side despite tension between the two countries. Israeli military officials said Friday.

The routine report of the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) said both Syria and Israel were fully observing the terms of their 1974 disengagement agreement in the Golan Heights, the officials said.

UNDOF monitors military movement in the Golan Heights up to 25 kilometres from the ceasefire line.

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq reports new Gulf attack amid continuing battles on Haj Omran front

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq on Friday reported a new attack on shipping in the Gulf after announcing concerted air action against Iranian positions on the war-front with Iran on Thursday.

In Tehran, two Iranian leaders warned the U.S. against a military confrontation with Iran, saying it would have global consequences. Heavy fighting continued for a third straight day on the northern front at Haj Omran, 390 kilometres north of Baghdad, where Iraq has reported the capture of a

strategic mountain peak.

An Iraqi spokesman said Iraqi warplanes struck at an unidentified ship near Iran's Gulf coast on Friday, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman said on Baghdad Radio that Iraqi warplanes raided at 10:30 a.m. a "large maritime target," an Iraqi military byword for oil tankers sailing to and from Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

The raiding jets scored "accurate and effective hits" on the

vessel and returned to base, said the spokesman.

On Thursday, Iraq said its warplanes flew 165 sorties over Iranian troop concentrations and positions on the war front.

A war communiqué said all the aircraft returned safely to base after inflicting heavy losses.

Fifth Army Forces on the northern front have repelled an Iranian attack by two companies on a mountain peak recaptured by

(Continued on page 5)

Tories slip to 3rd place in British poll

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservatives fell to third place in the latest British opinion poll on Friday, nearing an all-time low in popularity since she came to power seven years ago.

The results of a Gallup poll in the right-wing Daily Telegraph newspaper indicated that a swing away from Mrs. Thatcher, apparent since the start of the year, was now accelerating.

It gave the opposition Labour Party a popularity rating of 37 per cent, with the Liberal-Social Democratic Party (SDP) in second place with 32.5 per cent. The Conservatives trailed with 27.5 per cent, six points down on a Gallup poll taken last month.

The nationwide poll reflected results in local elections a week ago in which the Conservatives lost 700 municipal seats.

Friday's survey followed a troubled political week for Mrs. Thatcher in which the only bright news was Friday's announcement of a further fall in annual inflation to three per cent, an 18-year low.

Mrs. Thatcher was expected to accentuate her government's success in reducing inflation in a speech she was giving Friday evening to Scottish Conservatives at their annual conference.

But other statistics this week showed a further increase in unemployment and a fall in manufacturing output. The jobless figure now stands at 3.2 million or more than 13 per cent of the population on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Libya claims uncovering Egyptian sabotage group

LONDON (R) — Libya has discovered an Egyptian spy and sabotage network which helped guide U.S. warplanes in last month's raids on Tripoli and Benghazi, its official news agency JANA reported Friday.

"The network was entrusted with the task of monitoring military targets and guiding the raiding planes within the framework of coordination between American and Egyptian intelligence," it said.

JANA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the head of the two-year-old network, set up by Egyptian intelligence to gather information on

Libya's armed forces and carry out acts of espionage and sabotage, was arrested on April 15, the day of the raids.

It said two U.S.-made transmitters, able to guide aircraft to targets, were discovered the next day in areas of Benghazi and Tripoli attacked by U.S. warplanes. Libya said 39 people died in the raids.

It said another had been found when network head Muraji Hamudah Abu Azidah, an Egyptian citizen, was arrested.

The agency said the case had been referred to the public prosecution department "so that the courts may pass their verdict."

Yugoslavia gets new leaders

BELGRADE (R) — Branko Mikulic, who took over as Yugoslavia's prime minister on Friday, is a hardliner and skilled organiser, while the new state president, Sinan Hasani, is the first ethnic Albanian to move into the largely figurehead post.

Mr. Mikulic, 58, a Croat from Bosnia-Herzegovina, earned a reputation for organisation as president of the organising committee for the successful 1984 Winter Olympics at Sarajevo, capital of his home republic.

His authoritarian image, which has made him unpopular in some political circles, stems from a tough internal line he has taken as one of the senior politicians in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Mikulic has been criticised in official circles for coming down hard on intellectuals in Bosnia-Herzegovina and driving them out

of the republic.

The Bosnian Communist Party leadership, in which Mr. Mikulic has been a key figure since the mid-60s, is known for using an iron hand against internal dissent among the heavy mixture of Muslims, Croats and Serbs that make up the local population.

Mr. Mikulic was born in the Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf in 1928 and at 15, according to his official biography, joined Josef Broz Tito's partisans fighting Nazi and right-wing Yugoslav forces.

After the war he graduated from a higher economic school in Zagreb and began rising through the political apparatus of his home republic.

Many Yugoslavs say his personal acquaintance with Tito when the late Yugoslav leader visited Bosnia on bear-hunting trips furthered his advancement.



KING ATTENDS PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein on Friday attends prayers at the Fayha's Mosque in Amman accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al

Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of senior officials. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Khayat delivered sermons at the prayers (Petra photo)

Peres moves from 'territorial compromise' to 'power sharing'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres suggested on Friday that "power-sharing" rather than "territorial compromise" might pose the best prospect for a solution to the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Peres said he favoured a peace process beginning with more "self-administration" for the 800,000 West Bank Palestinians and moving towards "federation or confederation in the future."

Speaking to an international conference of mayors, Mr. Peres indicated that he has moved away from the traditional platform of his Labour Party, which advocates territorial compromise.

When you have two people living in the same land you have two possible solutions, either to divide the land or to share the government, either a territorial solution or a functional solution," Mr. Peres said.

"I believe the real opportunity is in the functional domain... starting with self-administration," Mr. Peres told the 14 mayors from the United States and Western Europe.

Mr. Peres said the key to restarting the stalled Middle East peace process was to introduce a climate more conducive to negotiations. "We feel we are trying, and we expect our neighbours to follow suit," he said.

Outlining a three-step agenda, Mr. Peres said the first step was to resolve a border dispute with Egypt so that the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian treaty would serve as an example to other Arab countries.

He said the second step was to "do whatever we can... to introduce liberalism" in the occupied territories, in order to encourage negotiations.

The process should end with direct talks between Israel and a joint delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians, Mr. Peres said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Peres warned against a stalemate in Middle East peace efforts as violence erupted in the occupied West Bank on the anniversary of the creation of the Jewish state.

"If we do not continue with the peace initiative, all the pent-up anger in the Middle East could suddenly burst out," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio.

Hours after the broadcast, tro-

ops shot and wounded two Palestinian students during an anti-Israeli demonstration in the West Bank town of Nablus. Military sources said protesters had hurled stones at security forces.

Commenting on the stalemated peace efforts, Mr. Peres said Israel might welcome a larger Jordanian role in the occupied territories.

"Jordan should be allowed to have ties with its citizens (in the West Bank)," he said. "Jordan is again trying to increase its influence. This stands a chance in the future because there are Jordanian nationals there and we are not enthusiastic about the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

As the Palestinian protests continued on Thursday, Israeli troops clamped a curfew on Balata refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

Sources quoted by Reuter said Israeli troops fired into the air to disperse dozens of demonstrators at the camp near the town of Nablus.

In a separate incident, about 50 students protested by burning tyres and hurling stones at vehicles in north Jerusalem, police said.

Argentine ex-junta leaders sentenced

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Three former junta members were convicted of negligence for launching and losing the 1982 Falklands war with Britain and have been sentenced to up to 14 years in prison, a source within the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces said Friday.

The source said the council, Argentina's highest military tribunal, sentenced General Leopoldo Galtieri, a former president and army commander, to 12 years; former navy commander Admiral Jorge Anaya to 14 years in prison; and former air force chief Gen. Basilio Lami Dozo to eight.

The council source spoke on condition of anonymity. Reports of the council's decision, attributed to unidentified military sources, appeared in several Buenos Aires daily newspapers on Friday.

Gen. Hector Canale, prosecutor general of the armed forces, told AP he had yet to be officially informed and could not confirm the reports.

The verdict and sentences end a court-martial that began in November 1983. The proceedings were held behind closed doors for what were termed "reasons of national security."

The 74-day Falklands war was precipitated by Argentina's invasion of the disputed British islands off the Argentine coast on April 2, 1982.

There was no immediate official explanation of the differing sentences. Gen. Canale had asked for 12 years each for Gen. Galtieri and Adm. Anaya and eight for Gen. Lami Dozo.

Adm. Anaya was initially a staunch advocate of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands. But after the British sank his most heavily armed warship, the General Belgrano, he confined his fleet close to Argentina's shore.

Soviets protest U.S. comments over new arms draft treaty

GENEVA (R) — Soviet negotiators at the Geneva arms control talks on Friday protested at what they called one-sided and distorted comments by chief U.S. negotiator Max Kampelman on a Soviet draft treaty to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe.

The Soviet delegation, led by veteran negotiator Viktor Karpov, introduced the document at a meeting on Thursday of the three teams negotiating on strategic, intermediate and space weapons.

The unexpected session, called by the Soviet team, was held a week after the Geneva talks resumed following a two-month break.

Mr. Kampelman told a news conference in Bern on Thursday the draft treaty appeared to contain nothing new.

He said the document seemed merely to put in treaty form previous Kremlin proposals on intermediate-range nuclear forces

which Washington says are unacceptable.

In a written statement on Friday, the Soviet delegation said it "deems it necessary to call attention to the one-sided and distorted description of the Soviet proposal by the head of the U.S. delegation."

The statement said: "The Soviet Union's introduction of the draft agreement drawn up in a strictly legal form is a major development in the negotiations, testifying to the willingness of the Soviet side to implement fundamental decisions" taken at the Geneva superpower summit last November.

The Soviet team complained that Mr. Kampelman made the tabling of the Soviet document public while they had refrained from doing so to comply with an agreement between the two delegations to keep details of the talks confidential.

NATO endorses controversial U.S. chemical weapons plan

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO said on Friday it had formally adopted a controversial plan for resumed U.S. production of chemical weapons after hearing objections from several West European allies.

A NATO spokesman said the alliance's defence planning council had adopted a "country chapter" for the United States which diplomats said meant a U.S. military objective to restart production of a new generation of nerve gas had been passed.

Belgium cleared the way for final adoption after approving the U.S. "force goal" while saying the new chemical arms could not be installed on Belgian territory.

Denmark, Norway and The Netherlands voiced similar objections to the U.S. plan in a three-hour meeting on Thursday of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ambassadors, urging Washington to give priority to arms control.

Diplomats added that though

the "force goal" had gone through, the qualified degree of support from the NATO allies might not satisfy the U.S. Congress which has to approve funding.

The United States says it has not produced chemical weapons since 1969. It argues that aging stocks have to be rejuvenated to offset a huge Soviet advantage in the field.

The new arms proposed are called binary weapons composed of two chemicals that are harmless individually but combine on explosion to form a lethal mixture.

The United States, aware of the domestic political problems that the sensitive issue could cause for its European allies, has said the new arms will be stockpiled in the United States and only moved to Europe in time of crisis.

Strongest opposition to the U.S. plan has come from The Netherlands where the centre-right government faces a touch-and-go general election next week.

Yarmouk classes expected to resume this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Regular classes at Yarmouk University are expected to resume this week, following student riots which prompted the closure of the institution on Thursday, a senior official at the university said Friday.

The official, who preferred anonymity, said: "Hopefully, the classes will start this week."

The official, who was contacted by the Jordan Times over the phone, refused to give any date.

However, a number of professors and a police source put Monday as the probable date for the resumption of regular courses at the university.

Three students died and 18 policemen and several other students were injured in rioting at the institution on Thursday.

An official spokesman for the Ministry of Interior reported the deaths and injuries on Thursday and said that police were in control of the situation.

Following is the text of the statement which was issued by the Ministry of Interior on Thursday.

"Yarmouk University over the past two years has witnessed a number of demonstrations and acts of rioting within its campus and the university administration had been trying its best to settle all problems through dialogue and discussion."

"It was also noticed that the investigators among the students have been the same group of troublemakers in every incident, and whose numbers did not exceed several tens of students."

"This same group has been able to organise a demonstration on the campus against a university decision to charge fees for practical training to be offered to engineering students. Although the university authorities later reduced the fees to a mere JD 15, the same group of saboteurs maintained its acts of instigating students to hold demonstrations through disrupting courses and causing confusion."

"These actions forced the university council to dismiss 32 of the troublemakers from academic terms starting in summer and after the final examinations for the current academic year had been completed, so that the dismissed students would not lose the benefit of the current term. The measures were taken in implementation of the university regulations and with the purpose of preserving positive and stable atmosphere that can help all students to continue their studies in a quiet and convenient climate free of all confusion and demagoguery."

"On the morning of Tuesday, May 13, 1986, the university authorities noticed that the troublemakers started to distribute statements to the rest of the students inciting them to gather at the campus, and succeeded in collecting several hundreds who marched in a demonstration, with some of them assaulting university staff, one of whom was injured and taken to hospital for treatment. This incident prompted the university administration to enlist the help of police in Irbid to settle the disturbances."

"Police came and positioned themselves outside the campus to prevent any suspected elements from infiltrating the ranks of students and exploiting the incidents for other purposes."

"But in the meantime, the students continued to gather around and demonstrate inside the campus until late in the evening when they held a sit-in inside the buildings so that they could resume disturbances on the following day, Wednesday, May 14. The disturbance continued on Wednesday with students causing much confusion and damage, and storming examination halls where they destroyed examination papers and attacked teachers and forced other students to leave the hall."

"All throughout Wednesday (Continued on page 5)

Shultz tells Jewish group Saudis should get U.S. arms

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz took the administration's campaign to sell new missiles to Saudi Arabia to a major Jewish group, warning that failure to help the Saudis could harm Israel's interests.

A leader of the group, the American Jewish Committee, had said Thursday that it would be unrealistic to expect Jewish support for President Reagan on the arms sale issue.

Congress has voted overwhelmingly against the sale of \$354 million worth of advanced missiles to Saudi Arabia and Mr. Reagan is lobbying to get Congress to sustain his planned veto of the congressional action.

Mr. Reagan has until next Wednesday to attempt to kill the so-called resolution of disapproval of the sale, and officials said he planned to wait until the last minute to gain time for lobbying, telephoning and meeting senators personally.

Mr. Shultz, in a prepared speech devoted mainly to world topics, injected the Saudi issue as something that "some of you may not want to hear."

Asserting the need to help Saudi Arabia defend the Gulf, Mr. Shultz referred to Iran's leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and said: "If Khomeini-ism advances into that area, America's strategic interests will be harmed — and needless to say, so will Israel's."

Mr. Shultz said many in the Arab World who wanted peace, stability and moderation could be brought to accept the permanent reality of Israel.

"But if America cannot demonstrate that we are a constant, effective, strong and responsive presence in the Middle East, those with the best of intentions inevitably will make their accommodations with those who bear the worst intentions toward us," he said.

Earlier David Gordis, executive vice president of the Jewish group, said it was "quite unrealistic" to expect U.S. Jews and other supporters of Israel to side with Mr. Reagan on the issue.

He spoke after White House spokesman Larry Speakes reported Mr. Reagan was making headway in his effort to gather enough Senate votes to sustain a veto.

Earlier this week, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar appealed to American Jews, who did not lobby against the sale, to actively support the president.

An aide to Sen. Lugar has said "Sen. (Richard) Lugar suggested that the president needs to approach American Jewish leaders ... to try and get them on our side and use that as a political tack to try and sustain a veto."

The aide said a meeting between Mr. Reagan and Jewish leaders was being organized for Friday or next Monday so that Mr. Reagan could try and persuade them that the sale would be in the security interests of both the United States and Israel.

The aide to Sen. Lugar said the Indiana Republican made the suggestion in a White House meeting with Mr. Reagan, who "liked the idea."

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives last week overwhelmingly rejected the administration's proposed sale to Saudi Arabia of 2,600 advanced anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles.

Mr. Reagan has said he will veto the so-called "resolution of disapproval" but opponents of the sale in Congress say they will be able to muster the two-thirds vote necessary to override that veto.

Mr. Shultz, commenting Wednesday on Sen. Lugar's plan, said the administration had held talks with the Jewish community and would continue to do so.

Israel and the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington opposed the sale but did not wage an all-out campaign against it on Capitol Hill — which some in Congress interpreted as evidence Israel did not believe its security was threatened by the sale.

Mr. Reagan has until next Wednesday to veto the resolution, although Speakers said it could come by the end of this week.

Senate majority leader Robert Dole, who also attended the White House meeting, said Mr. Reagan needed 12 votes in the Senate to sustain his veto.

Mr. Shultz indicated that the "standing of the president of the United States in directing our foreign policy" would be damaged if legislators voted to override Reagan's veto — a rare occurrence in foreign policy matters.

The administration has said that the arms sale was needed to send a signal to Iran not to widen the Gulf war across Saudi borders. It has also said that maintaining the Saudi defence capability would reduce the possibility of U.S. troops being needed in any future Middle East crisis.

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U.N. chief accuses Collett's kidnappers of cruelty

LONDON (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has accused the kidnappers of British U.N. employee Alec Collett, who was reported last month to have been hanged by his captors in Lebanon, of cruel and repugnant behaviour.

"The cruelty of these people is really incredible," Mr. Perez de Cuellar told journalists in London shortly before ending an official visit to Britain.

He said it was particularly cruel and repugnant of the kidnappers to keep the family in suspense about Collett's fate because it was still not certain he was dead.

The self-styled Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims last month released a videotape purporting to show the 64-year-old Briton being hanged in retaliation for the April 15 British-backed U.S. bombing of Libya.

No body has been found and the person shown in the film has not been identified by Collett's colleagues in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had seen the videotape but could not be certain that it showed Collett, whom he knew well.

"I personally was not convinced by what I saw," he said. "The man I saw was not like the Collett I knew."

Collett, one of 22 foreigners missing in Lebanon, was on a writing assignment for UNRWA when he was kidnapped near Beirut in March last year.

In Beirut a telephone caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad (holy war) said Thursday the group would "make the earth shake" under the United States, France and any Arab country which pressed for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

"The first to pay the price would be the remaining hostages we have," the anonymous caller told an international news agency in Beirut.

"The number (of hostages) has decreased... we have liquidated a number of them," he said.

The group has previously said it killed an American and a Frenchman among five U.S. and four French hostages it claimed to hold, but the bodies were not found.

The new threat followed reports that Syria, at Washington's behest, has launched intense efforts to free the hostages.

"We warn all these countries, whether America, France or any Arab countries involved in these pressures, that we will make the earth shake under their feet because we will resort to our destructive method if they don't stop their manoeuvres against Syria and Islamic Jihad," the caller said.

The group has been attacking Western targets in the Middle East for about three years, including suicide truck bombs that killed some 300 French and U.S. servicemen in Beirut in 1983.

Kuwait education minister resigns after irking fundamentalists

KUWAIT (AP) — Attempts by Education Minister Hassan Al Ibrahim to modernise and reform education in Kuwait have roused the ire of religious fundamentalists and precipitated his resignation, parliamentary sources reported Friday.

Mr. Ibrahim's reform blueprint envisaged a more rigorous admission policy and preventing politicisation of the university by barring parliamentarians from addressing students on campus.

The proposed reform by the U.S.-educated Ibrahim also envisioned modifications in school and university curricula, with religious groups taking particular offense from his plans to introduce books on Charles Darwin's Origin of the Species.

Newspapers last week reported the resignation, which was later confirmed by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid.

Mr. Rashid said that the government stood by Mr. Ibrahim's reform plans which, he stressed, was to be "implemented without alteration." He added that a final decision on the resignation rested with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah.

Before his resignation, Mr. Ibrahim, a former dean of Kuwait University, was the target of repeated attacks inside parliament and in the press by Islamic fundamentalist deputies, who accused him of adopting "an American oriented approach to education."

The American-trained economist, who took up his cabinet portfolio 14 months ago, was also criticised for a planned major shake-up of the ministry's hierarchy.

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Qadhafi: Reagan should be toppled, tried

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (Agencies) — Youngsters who wrote to Muammar Qadhafi as part of a class project received a reply in which the Libyan leader said President Ronald Reagan "should be toppled and tried."

"He told us stuff about President Reagan and how he doesn't like him," was the way Justin Tyler described the letter that he and others in his class received Thursday at Maxfield Magnet School.

In his letter to Col. Qadhafi, Jimmy Xiong had written: "Dear Col. Qadhafi, I am so sorry that your letter daughter died and can I ask you a favour? Could you stop bombing us, OK? And we'll stop bombing you."

"Dear Col. Qadhafi, why are you bombing the USA? Can't you think of a better way to solve the problem? Well I can... write letters," wrote Daniel Barbosa.

The class also wrote to Mr. Reagan, but has yet to receive a reply, teacher Jill Swanson told the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch newspaper.

"I would expect we would hear from the president," said Ms. Swanson. "I would hope we would get something more personal from him."

"Dear President Reagan, Hi," wrote Leslie Garrett. "I have an idea instead of Libya and our state bombing each other, you and Col. Qadhafi can set up a time and day to talk to each other about it. So if you don't take my idea, I hope you figure out some way without hurting or fighting."

Col. Qadhafi's typewritten letter was on white paper trimmed in green and decorated with Libyan political slogans written in Arabic.

French and English. The grammar and spelling were imperfect. It was signed in Arabic script over Col. Qadhafi's typed name: Col. Muammar Al Qadhafi.

"Dear Friend," the letter said, "we received your kind letter in which you condemned the American barbarian aggression against our country and our people. We appreciate your deeply feelings towards us."

The letter went on to praise Libyan bombing victims as "martyrs for the cause of Allah," and urge that "children murderers Reagan and (British Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher should be toppled and tried."

The letter defended Arab unity and Palestinian liberation and disavowed responsibility for attacks in Europe and the Middle East.

The students' letter-writing project was started the day after the April 14 air raid.

"A lot of the kids were talking about it, wondering what we could do besides more bombing," said Ms. Swanson, a 10-year teaching veteran. "Whenever a child wants to know what's going on in the world, I try to capitalise on it." So the class fired off letters to the men in charge, Mr. Reagan and Col. Qadhafi.

Ms. Swanson sent letters to Mr. Reagan via U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger, asking that he forward them to the president. In a reply dated May 2, Sen. Durenberger said he had encouraged Mr. Reagan to respond.

The letters for Col. Qadhafi were mailed to an address in the Libyan capital of Tripoli. "I just called the public library and asked for his address," Ms. Swanson said.

Meanwhile former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig said Thursday innocent people probably died needlessly in last month's U.S. bombing raid on Libya because of the way the attack was carried out.

Gen. Haig told Chinese trainee diplomats at Peking's Foreign Affairs College that the raids should have been conducted in daylight by planes from U.S. aircraft carriers not far from Libya in the Mediterranean.

Instead, bombers were flown from Britain, necessitating night raids, which were less precise, he said. An official Libyan casualty toll issued six days after the April 15 raid on Tripoli and Benghazi was 39 dead and more than 90 injured.

"Daytime strikes would have probably been far more precise and would not have risked innocent lives which was the result of that strike," he said.

Gen. Haig, a former supreme commander of NATO forces in Europe, suggested Wednesday that rivalry between the U.S. armed services accounted for the decision to opt for land-based bombers rather than naval air power.

"Why did we go to FB-111s when we had two aircraft carriers sitting right off the target area? he asked a U.S. businessmen's meeting.

Replying to his own question amid laughter, Gen. Haig said: "You and I know why. It's the old Pentagon game — one for you, one for me."

Spain reinforces Melilla border with Morocco

MELILLA (R) — Spain in reinforcing the 10-kilometre border of its North African enclave Melilla with Morocco following the application of a new aliens' law which makes illegal residents liable to expulsion, Melilla's government representative said Friday.

He said Melilla's five border posts would be fitted with an electronic security system and computer terminals to control the movement of some 7,000 people who cross the border daily.

Search flights will illuminate the barbed-wire border at night and the road along the frontier will be improved.

"The security measures are being taken to prevent Moroccans from entering Melilla illegally," government representative Andres Moreno told Reuters.

Muslim leaders say there are up to 30,000 people of Moroccan descent living in this garrison city of 75,000, against official estimates of 20,000. More than half of them have no official documents and are viewed as illegal immigrants by Spain.

The new law, which came into effect in March, has drawn strong protests from the enclave's Muslim community who fear mass expulsions. Spanish authorities have agreed to study their requests for Spanish citizenship.

U.N. chief accuses Collett's kidnappers of cruelty

LONDON (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has accused the kidnappers of British U.N. employee Alec Collett, who was reported last month to have been hanged by his captors in Lebanon, of cruel and repugnant behaviour.

"The cruelty of these people is really incredible," Mr. Perez de Cuellar told journalists in London shortly before ending an official visit to Britain.

He said it was particularly cruel and repugnant of the kidnappers to keep the family in suspense about Collett's fate because it was still not certain he was dead.

The self-styled Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims last month released a videotape purporting to show the 64-year-old Briton being hanged in retaliation for the April 15 British-backed U.S. bombing of Libya.

No body has been found and the person shown in the film has not been identified by Collett's colleagues in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA).

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had seen the videotape but could not be certain that it showed Collett, whom he knew well.

"I personally was not convinced by what I saw," he said. "The man I saw was not like the Collett I knew."

Collett, one of 22 foreigners missing in Lebanon, was on a writing assignment for UNRWA when he was kidnapped near Beirut in March last year.

In Beirut a telephone caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad (holy war) said Thursday the group would "make the earth shake" under the United States, France and any Arab country which pressed for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

"The first to pay the price would be the remaining hostages we have," the anonymous caller told an international news agency in Beirut.

"The number (of hostages) has decreased... we have liquidated a number of them," he said.

The group has previously said it killed an American and a Frenchman among five U.S. and four French hostages it claimed to hold, but the bodies were not found.

The new threat followed reports that Syria, at Washington's behest, has launched intense efforts to free the hostages.

"We warn all these countries, whether America, France or any Arab countries involved in these pressures, that we will make the earth shake under their feet because we will resort to our destructive method if they don't stop their manoeuvres against Syria and Islamic Jihad," the caller said.

The group has been attacking Western targets in the Middle East for about three years, including suicide truck bombs that killed some 300 French and U.S. servicemen in Beirut in 1983.

Kuwait education minister resigns after irking fundamentalists

KUWAIT (AP) — Attempts by Education Minister Hassan Al Ibrahim to modernise and reform education in Kuwait have roused the ire of religious fundamentalists and precipitated his resignation, parliamentary sources reported Friday.

Mr. Ibrahim's reform blueprint envisaged a more rigorous admission policy and preventing politicisation of the university by barring parliamentarians from addressing students on campus.

The proposed reform by the U.S.-educated Ibrahim also envisioned modifications in school and university curricula, with religious groups taking particular offense from his plans to introduce books on Charles Darwin's Origin of the Species.

Newspapers last week reported the resignation, which was later confirmed by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid.

Mr. Rashid said that the government stood by Mr. Ibrahim's reform plans which, he stressed, was to be "implemented without alteration." He added that a final decision on the resignation rested with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah.

Before his resignation, Mr. Ibrahim, a former dean of Kuwait University, was the target of repeated attacks inside parliament and in the press by Islamic fundamentalist deputies, who accused him of adopting "an American oriented approach to education."

The American-trained economist, who took up his cabinet portfolio 14 months ago, was also criticised for a planned major shake-up of the ministry's hierarchy.

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Alia seeking syndicated loan for Airbus purchase

AMMAN (R) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is seeking a \$70 to 80 million loan to finance initial payment for 12 Airbus passenger jets worth \$600 million, banking sources told Reuters on Thursday.

The sources had no other details of the planned loan, for which the state-owned airline has received government authorisation, but said the aircraft deal would be financed through leasing arrangements with banks mandated to raise the loan.

Alia, which raised a \$20-million, two-year syndicated credit in last March, would have no difficulty raising the new loan, the sources added.

The airline signed a contract in Paris last Friday for six A310-300s and six smaller A320 jets from the Airbus Industrie consortium, which groups manufacturers from France, West Germany, Britain and Spain.

It also took options on three more A310-300s, which seat 191 passengers and four narrow-bodied A320s.

The Airbus will start replacing Alia's aging fleet of Boeing 707 and 727 jets from the first quarter of 1987.

Alia is expected to decide on which engines will power the new aircraft later this month.

Experts find Bronze Age city at Tel Al Sadia

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of British excavators Thursday made two archaeological discoveries in the northern Jordan Valley area of Tel Al Sadia where they found a large city dating back to the Bronze Age and a courtyard from the first era of Islam.

The team of archaeologists from the British Museum are currently excavating the Tel Al Sadia area in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and Yarmouk University.

Mr. Jonathan Top, head of the team, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the city, located on top of Sadia hill, has no walls to protect it which indicates that it was erected in a period of peace. Mr. Top added that the team's studies on the Tel area revealed that the city was devastated in 2800 B.C. by a huge fire. The team also discovered a large cemetery dating back to 1250 B.C. — the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the First Iron Age.

The walls of tombs were cut from the inside which suggests that the city's inhabitants passed through period when they lived in fear and used the tombs for hideouts, Mr. Top explained.

According to the team's studies, the Tel was uninhabited for 150 years after the city was burnt by the fire and later people resettled in the area after the city was transformed into an industrial centre with the majority of the population working in weaving and textiles.

The team also discovered a courtyard at the bottom of the Tel and they suggested this was used as a stopover place by Umayyad caravans.

Four people receive treatment for road accident injuries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A number of traffic accidents over the weekend in different parts of the Kingdom resulted in four casualties and all the injured people were reported to be in good conditions, according to reports in the local Arabic daily newspapers.

One report said that eight-year-old A. Esu Ahmad was admitted to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman after she was hit by a minibus. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Kh. M.

Also on Thursday, a truck driven by Ibrahim Sayed from Egypt went off the road when the driver lost control of his vehicle on the ring road at Qweismeh. The driver was immediately admitted to Al Bashir Hospital for treatment, according to the report.

A head-on collision at Treibil injured one of the drivers. Moh-

ammad Labad, 52, who was taken to Ruweished centre for treatment.

The collision, according to the report, occurred when a tanker-truck with Kuwaiti number plates crashed into another tanker-truck coming from the opposite direction and also Kuwaiti number plates.

Another tanker-truck accident left Musa Abdullah, 74, with bruises and minor injuries when his truck, registered in Kuwait, went off the road near Ruweished. The casualty was admitted to Mafrq Government Hospital for treatment.

A report in Sawt Al Shaab newspaper said a 14-year-old girl was admitted to Wadi Musa medical centre after she had been bitten by a scorpion on her right hand.

ACC starts procedures to reschedule farmers' loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has instructed all its branches around the country to embark on the procedure of rescheduling farmers' loans due for payment up to December 31, 1985, ACC Director General Sami Suna announced Friday.

He said that the ACC will now request farmers to pay the still unsettled loans in instalments, to be spread over the coming five years and in a manner convenient for farmers. This year the farmers

will only be asked to pay the instalments due for 1986, he explained.

Referring to a government decision to exempt farmers from paying interest due on these loans, Dr. Suna said that the government will settle this issue by paying JD 1,241,933 to the ACC on behalf of farmers. ACC branches around the Kingdom, he added, are now informing farmers of these measures and urging them to pay back their loans in due course.

Young artists display distinctive styles at school's exhibition

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Covering the walls of the French Cultural Centre this week — like a rich and colourful wallpaper — are over 350 paintings by the students from the College of the Sisters of Nazareth. Four deep and side by side, the paintings in this now annual, and always enjoyable, event are mostly the work of the six classes of 14 to 17 year old students taught by Jordanian artist Fouad Mimi. Fifty have been submitted from the rest of the school.

Framed in white cardboard, the subject matter of the paintings varies, but more often than not it seems that the local landscapes and the people that inhabit them have been the main source of the girls' inspiration. This is partly due to Mr. Mimi's influence as he encourages the students to look around when out on a picnic and to take photographs. Mostly, however, it is the girls themselves who wish to depict these scenes, for as Mr. Mimi laughingly says: "They ask me to tell them what to do, so I tell them and then they go and do something else!"

History of art

Mr. Mimi considers it more important to teach the students about the history of art as he believes this builds up their confidence. "I show them samples from each school, each period of

art, and sometimes, a student who has produced something good can relate to it and this gives them the courage to go on and develop their idea," said Mr. Mimi.

Perhaps because of this approach, some of the students are already developing their own style, their pieces being readily picked out from among the rest. Take, for example, the work of 16 year old Abeer Abu Hwaig whose landscapes are made up of thick brushstrokes of colour. In front of a row of trees she has depicted a little lake entirely composed of blocky shades of blue that gradually pales, showing that Abeer has seen how light plays on water and has tried to catch its effect.

Duriya Mango has also produced some very interesting and distinctive work. The characteristic feature of her paintings being large swirls of colour. In an almost abstract landscape a large mass of rushing pink is pierced by sharp points of black that seem to play out from the centre. Another lovely piece by Duriya is of a woman, her head haloed by a mass of thick red hair, dancing. The angle of the body, its position in



IFTAR — His Majesty King Hussein hosted an Iftar banquet at Al Hussein Youth City on Thursday evening and performed prayers with invited guests. Attending the banquet were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief of the

Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and cabinet members. Also present were members of the Upper House of Parliament, Islamic religious leaders and members of the Islamic diplomatic corps in Jordan (Petra photo)

TCC plans more phone services for next 5 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 1986-1990 five-year development plan for the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) aims to raise the telephone service to 16 percent by the end of 1990 in Jordan, up from the present six per cent, and this means providing 16 telephone lines for every 100 people, TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail said Friday.

Quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ismail said that under the new plan, an additional 425 cities and villages will be provided with automatic telephone exchanges. He said that improved communications are expected to stem migration from rural to urban regions.

Mr. Ismail was speaking on the eve of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Day which falls on May 17. He said that this year ITU has adopted the slogan of "partners in progress" which, he continued, reflects the significant role telecommunications can play in the social and economic development of nations.

Mr. Ismail said the government has been supporting the TCC's programmes and projects in a bid to help develop the country and to achieve further progress. He went on to say that boosting telecommunications services in Jordan means developing the country in many respects. "Both the TCC and the public are partners in the process of achieving progress," he added.

Founded in 1965, ITU became a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1947. It acts to encourage world cooperation in the use of telecommunications, to promote technical development and to harmonise national policies in the field. ITU's present membership is 160 and its headquarters are in Geneva.

Cabinet okays plan to organise poultry sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has given the go ahead for a plan designed to organise the poultry sector in the Kingdom and has decided to establish a company to supervise the activities and programmes in this sector. A cabinet announcement issued Thursday said that the projected company will set up five slaughter houses and will include shareholders from the public and the private sectors.

The Social Security Corporation and the Pension Fund will each contribute JD 1.5 million, the Ministry of Supply will provide JD 100,000 and the Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Industrial Development Bank will each contribute JD 500,000 to the capital of the new company, a cabinet statement said. The cabinet decision was based on recommendations submitted by a special committee headed by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Khoud.

Transport study

The cabinet also decided to cooperate with an international firm in conducting a study on the transport situation in Jordan. The cabinet allocated JD 2,000 to help cover the cost of conducting the study and decided to authorise Minister of Planning Taher Kana'an to sign the agreement with the firm on behalf of the Jordanian government.

Corporation to hand over keys for Abu Nuseir units soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation has prepared a list of beneficiaries who will shortly be handed keys to their housing units at Abu Nuseir housing estate, north west of Amman, near Jubaila, according to a spokesman for the corporation who told the Jordan Times that the handing over of keys could take place in two weeks' time when the corporation's director general, Mr. Shafiq Zawaideh, returns from a visit abroad.

The housing units were to have been delivered to beneficiaries by May 15, according to an announcement to the press by Mr. Zawaideh last month, but due to unspecified reasons the date has been put off.

According to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper, 1,000 beneficiaries have completed procedures and have paid the advance fee of 10 per cent of the total cost of the unit. The report also said that only these beneficiaries will be eligible to receive units at Abu Nuseir.

The paper quoted corporation sources as saying that 2,400 units have not yet been sold to government employees and that very few applications were submitted for ownership. These units will be offered to the public and non-government employees at a later date, the paper added.

The report went on to say that commercial stores will be offered for rent at the rate of JD 25 per square metre and will also be offered to the public.

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Mr. Zawaideh said in a newspaper interview with Al Rai Arabic daily newspaper that all services for the housing estate, including schools, electricity, health services and a shopping centre have been installed and schools on the estate will open for the coming scholastic year.

A special committee has been formed to supervise technical and administrative issues at Abu Nuseir estate until a municipality for the 3,500 housing units is formed, Mr. Zawaideh said. But, he continued, owners cannot let their units or sell them without prior approval from Housing Corporation and through cooperation with the supervising committee.

Beneficiaries living on the estate cannot change the structure of the building, build or pull down any part of the building in accordance with the corporation's regulations and in implementation of a contract signed by the beneficiary, Mr. Zawaideh added. He said that the corporation will shortly invite members of the public, army personnel and expatriates to apply for units at Abu Nuseir.

The beneficiaries are paying the corporation the cost of the units in instalments extending, in some cases for 20 years, but they are not paying for the cost of the infrastructure and the laying of water, telephone and electricity networks and the wastewater treatment plant.

Hamzeh returns from WHO meetings in Geneva

Organisation's 39th session denounces Israel for refusing admission to fact-finding mission

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Zaid Hamzeh, Minister of Health and current president of the 39th meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Friday returned to Amman from Geneva where he chaired the organisation's two-weeks of meetings which discussed health standards throughout the world and means to achieve international health cooperation in order to contribute towards providing health for all by the year 2000.

Prior to his departure, Dr. Hamzeh held a press conference in Geneva during which he answered questions raised by the media men and briefed journalists on the outcome of the meetings' deliberations. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the minister's meeting with the press, did not give information on the issues raised in the press conference.

At the end of the WHO meetings on Thursday evening, Dr. Hamzeh delivered a closing speech in which he said: "During our meetings, we have discussed health problems throughout the world and reviewed health achievements made by member nations in a bid to realise the WHO aim of reaching a working health situation for the world's peoples."

Dr. Hamzeh told the meeting that the differences in health standards and services throughout the world has rendered it difficult for WHO to draw up and implement its international health strategy to bring about health for all by the year 2000.

What makes it harder for the implementation of the WHO strategy is the deteriorating situation in the world economy in general and in the developing nations in particular, Dr. Hamzeh said in his address to the final WHO meeting.

International cooperation

Dr. Hamzeh also emphasised the importance of international cooperation to implement WHO's health strategy. He said that cooperation is needed to overcome the "health crisis" otherwise there will be an increase in diseases, particularly children's diseases, and it will be difficult for any developing country to achieve progress in health fields.

Dr. Hamzeh also pointed out other subjects discussed during the WHO meetings, such as the dangers of smoking, the rationalisation of drug consumption and the importance of breast feeding.

Dr. Hamzeh's speech also raised an important issue, currently emphasised by all international health organisations regarding immunising the world's children against all diseases.

Awards

During the closing session, Dr. Hamzeh also distributed prizes to four renowned medical doctors in honour of their achievements in health-related fields.

Dr. Black and Dr. Kiled of Australia were awarded the Darling Institute awards for their efforts in combating malaria. Leon Bernards' award was given to Dr. Koni of Nigeria for his efforts in social and community health. Dr. Ali Tawfik Shousha's award was presented to Dr. Mohammad Labib Ibrahim of Egypt in appreciation for his services in some regions of Egypt.

In another development during the closing session, the WHO meeting also denounced the Israeli occupation authorities for refusing to admit a WHO team to the West Bank. The team had been entrusted with studying the health situation of Palestinian citizens living in the occupied West Bank.

Jordan and Lebanon participated in drafting the article to denounce the Israeli authorities and the draft was prepared in cooperation with delegates from Syria and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

The WHO meeting also approved a Moroccan request regarding Morocco's admission into the WHO regional office for the Mediterranean area instead of the WHO regional office for Europe.

Last year, WHO accepted Israel's admission into the WHO European office instead of the WHO Mediterranean office.

Cropping patterns have helped regulate agribusiness, ministry official says

AMMAN (Petra) — Initial results from the application of the agricultural cropping pattern system in agriculture are encouraging and the government is determined to go ahead with applying the system in cooperation with farmers and crop producers in Jordan, Mr. Said Al Zuhair, director of agricultural planning at the Ministry of Agriculture, said Friday.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Zuhair said that his ministry will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the results since the application of the system was introduced in 1985. However, initial results indicate that the farmers were, in the majority of cases, very cooperative and achieved good results and a bumper output, Mr. Zuhair continued.

The need for the application of the cropping pattern system was primarily due to the development of agriculture in Jordan and the modern techniques that have been used in the production and processing of crops over the past years which together resulted in a noticeable increase in output, in turn creating a marketing problem, Mr. Zuhair explained. He went on to say that the new system aims at organising production with the purpose of providing sufficient supplies of all types of crops for the local market and leaving a surplus for export.

The application of the system is not an interference in the farmers' work but is rather a means for organising Jordan's agricultural production for the benefit of farmers and the national economy, Mr. Zuhair stressed.

Under the new system, he continued, Jordan has started to produce sufficient onions, potatoes, garlic, carrots and fodder, to suffice the local market, a situation which had not been possible under previous circumstances. The system also helps avoid the problem of huge surpluses of certain types of crops and the absence from the market of others which were in great demand by the public and which were previously imported from abroad, he said. The system also helps to stabilise prices, Mr. Zuhair pointed out. The application of the system, he added, also makes it possible for farmers to control the use of water and helps them to reclaim new land suitable for certain crops for which there is a ready market.

The agricultural pattern system has been successfully applied in the high, rain-fed regions of the Kingdom and later it was applied in the Jordan Valley region, especially to regulate the production of tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines and marrows under plastic cover, Mr. Zuhair said.

Incentives

In its drive to encourage local farmers to adopt the system and to make larger profits, the following incentives have been offered:

1- The government has been advising farmers and guiding them about the production of certain types of cereals, onions and potatoes which are needed in Jordan and has promised to buy these crops at very good prices.

2- The Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) has been purchasing the tomato, aubergine and marrow crops for export and paying highly profitable prices to the

farmers, provided that producers have been applying the agricultural cropping pattern system. 3- The government has decided to pay JD 15 as a subsidy to farmers for every dunum of land in the Jordan Valley planted with tomatoes and JD 10 for each dunum in the highlands grown with the same crop.

4- The government has been purchasing surplus tomatoes for processing.

5- The government has been providing protection for local production by banning imports of crops that can be produced locally. In order to provide the subsidy, the Ministry of Agriculture has been preparing lists of farmers who have been applying the cropping system and through a special committee it will pay local producers all the money they have been promised, probably in July, Mr. Zuhair pointed out.

Regarding violators and those who do not apply the system, Mr. Zuhair said that they could face any or a combination of the following penalties:

1- Each farmer will be fined JD 25 to JD 50 for every dunum of land grown with crops in excess of the permitted area.

2- AMPCO will refrain from purchasing crops from farmers who do not apply the cropping system. 3- The Ministry of Agriculture will stop subsidising the cost of water provided for irrigation and the charge for water will rise from three fils to 15 fils per cubic metre.

Only the Tafleeh and Ma'an districts have been excluded from the system in the light of studies which showed that insufficient areas of land are being exploited for crops in the two regions.

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Zarqa spends JD 2.5m on ring road

ZARQA (J.T.) — A total of JD 2.5 million has been spent on building a ring road around Zarqa to ease traffic congestion, according to Zarqa Municipality sources. They said that JD 7.5 million has been allocated for the project which entails building a 12-kilometre road. This road, the sources said, will have a three kilometre four-lane extension linking Zarqa with an adjoining free zone centre.

Channel Two Preview

Return of the Dalglish

By J.H. Boteler

NO, not King Kenny, who no sooner has he led Liverpool to the fabled "double" and the land of myth than he promptly withdraws from the Scotland World Cup squad and thereby reduces that nation's chances of eventual victory from zero to minus-infinity, but his glorious namesake Adam. But more of him anon for, since we are on the subject of soccer, there are a few points I feel I should mention. First, it would seem that With Minotti To Mexico has arrived on our screens with a veritable burst, and will occupy the 9 o'clock slot practically every day until a certain event which is as of now fourteen days and counting. The other point refers to last Wednesday week's coverage of the European Champions Cup Final. Anyone who managed to sit through the two-and-a-half hours of goalless action that night will be aware that as the teams were about to embark on their penalty shoot-out, the screen suddenly went blank. Ever since people have been coming up to me, salivating at the mouth and with a murderous glint in their eyes, demanding to know "Why?" First of all, it is not my fault. Nor is it the fault of JTV. That is, not unless you consider their first duty to be one of recklessly squandering vast amounts of public money. What I mean is this: satellite-time is available in two forms. A country can purchase "open" time, which runs for ever, or until the recipient country terminates transmission. This is vastly expensive, and in practice is only taken up by those countries with heaps of money or an even greater amount of largesse. Most other countries, such as Jordan, buy satellite time at the cheaper rate, whereby they pre-book a certain amount (minimum period 30 minutes). So JTV book an initial period of two hours, with a further option of half-an-hour. This should be enough for full-time, extra-time, with enough left over for penalties and/or trophy presentation. Then of course the teams are late starting, spend half the game kicking seven bells out of each other, necessitating lots of injury time, and the whole 2½ hours are taken up. A more useful question would be: why doesn't the country selling transmission time, in the interest of international co-operation, allow recipient countries to over-run by a couple of minutes? So, honour vindicated, on with the show.

Comedies

Tonight's episode of *Duty Free* has very bad news for David, in the form of Kevin Wilson. Kevin has plagued David's life ever since school, and David thinks that Kevin is the reason for his (David's) being made redundant. So when Kevin turns up at the same hotel, trouble is in the air. Another nasty surprise is in store in *Me And My Girl*, (tomorrow, Sunday), this time for the misguided fool who in the street: trust her to carry a mousetrap around in her hand-bag! Someone steals a German tank in Monday's episode of *Allo! Allo!* (I hope they don't try to hide it in the cafe), and on Tuesday a gun-toting customer attempts a spot of armed robbery at Amanda's. Now this series obviously owes a lot to "Fawcett Towers," not only in the general format, but also in some of the characterisation. Aldo the hell-bop can't speak English and is generally a buffoon, and his shortcomings are explained in much the same way. "Don't mind him, he's from Canada." (Interestingly enough, "Fawcett Towers" avoided this pitfall of alienating a sizeable audience. The Spanish (dubbed) version of it changed Manuel's home-town of Bar-

celona to Italy!). American adaptations of English sit-coms are, of course, nothing new. "Stepbrother And Son," "On the Buses," and "Robin's Nest" have all been adapted. Alf Garnett became Archie Bunker, and even "Three's Company" started life as "Bless-This House." This is by no means to imply that English comedy is in any way superior. American simply afford to adapt story-lines, whereas England finds it cheaper to buy an American series. Nor is the copy generally inferior to the original: it is often only nostalgia and familiarity that makes it seem so. However Amanda's has the unenviable task of having to adapt arguably one of the finest and most original comedy shows ever produced. Still, this does not mean that Amanda's is not worth watching. It has a number of new characters, and therefore lots of possibilities of new plot-lines. Also it has in Bea Cartwright a leading lady who, while she may be no John Cleese, is a very fine comic talent indeed. So judge this series on its merits, not on comparisons. Elsewhere in the week a new hospital manager threatens Dr. Shirefield with the sack in *Emergency Room*, (Wednesday), and on Friday Mr. Belvedere sees young Wesley campaigning to sell sweets for a charity. Which leaves us with Thursday, and a new series, *Home To Roost*. This stars John Thaw (ex-"Sweeney"), as Henry Willos, who is re-united with his long-lost son Matthew after seven years when the latter walks out on his mother and the man she left his father for. Henry, and his daily help Mrs. T., (no, not THAT Mrs. T.), find that the generation-gap is more than an abstraction when they have to contend with Michael's rock music, joss sticks, punk girl-friends and various other youthful manifestations. Add that fact that Mum does not want her son back, and the scene is set. Since it is written by Eric Chappell, author of "Rising Damp," this series sounds promising.

Documentaries

To start with, *Ramadan In The World*, (every night after the News At Ten), continues with its well-photographed and informative studies of how Ramadan is celebrated in the myriad Islamic communities around the globe. This has some justifiable claim to being a truly Jordanian production. To start with, it is narrated by Nadim Swalha, whose brother Nabil is a driving force at the Haya Arts Centre, and has long been a local star of stage and screen. (He recently starred as President Roosevelt in "Annie" and currently can be seen as a member of a Bedouin band of fugitives in a Channel One "Arabic Series" being shown daily at 4.45. He's the one with the two-tone beard!) Furthermore *Ramadan In The World* is produced by Yassar Durra, one of the first directors for JTV and currently working in England as an international TV reporter.

Then there is another Islamic Dialogue on Wednesday night, between a group of Islamic scholars and hosted by Farouk Jarrar, from the Al Al Bait foundation. Also in this context one could include *The Scientific Legacy Of The Arab World*, which tonight takes as its theme Astronomy, a field in which the Arab World literally set the pace.

Elsewhere in the documentary field, tomorrow (Sunday) has the third instalment of *The World Challenge*, in which the sheer force of the message continues to rise above the irritating graphics. Last week had a snip from an old news-reel that will live long in the memory. Asked a reporter of a Belgian settler: "What do you like

about living here?" Answered she: "I like helping the Europeans!" He: "Why the Europeans?" She: "Because the blacks aren't worth it." Thank you and good night. This week's episode sets out to show that she was in a minority. The blacks were "Worth it," at least as far as producing such luxury goods as bananas, copper, gold, diamonds, cocoa, etc. But wait a minute. Doesn't concentrating on these items to the exclusion of all else disrupt the local ecological balance? Not our worry, old chap. But they haven't got enough food or local industry. Oh, well, sell them lots of high-technology and advanced industry (at very high interest, naturally). But that is not what they want, and now they are dying of starvation. Oh, dear. Perhaps they would like to buy some weapons? Yes, today's sordid tale of greed and shortsightedness: so much waste in the past, so much opportunity for a disaster in the future (or sooner).

Feature films and detectives

Tonight's film is *Splendour In The Grass*. It is not, however, the 1961 version starring Warren Beatty and Natalie Wood, but a more recent Made-For-TV adaptation. The plot-line though should be the same, dealing with an adolescent love-affair in a small Kansas town in the 1920's. Thursday's offering is called *Ultimate Thrill*. A business-man and his wife decide to take some time off and enjoy some ice-skating. Unfortunately, the wife is pestered by a young man. Her husband takes offence at this and chases the aforementioned young man, in a helicopter. I should perhaps add that the husband has a history of mental illness.

As far as detectives go, tomorrow (Sunday) has *The Master* tangling with a gang who have a monopoly on the produce of a local community. Hopefully he will take the opportunity to unveil another of his baffling tricks, along the lines of disappearing in a flash of smoke and dying at will (last week). Monday's *Murder*, she wrote discovers an old lady slowly dying in hospital. Too slowly for someone, obviously, since she is helped on her way and her will gets altered. Whoever is responsible did not reckon on Jessica Fletcher. Last week *The Equalizer* found himself involved in a truly sordid world of CIA-induced double-cross. Thankfully this Tuesday he can return to the tranquil domestic world of New York, and a gang of drug-dealers who are busy collaring the entire city supply of narcotics, pharmacies and all. As for *Hunter* (Friday), he has to deal with a distraught wife who is an eye-witness of the brutal slaying of her husband at home, but who will not cooperate with the police. But all of the above are merely standard run-of-the-mill detective fare, and pale in comparison with the new series for Mondays. Actually, this is so superior that it really belongs in:

Drama

Adam Dalglish returns in *The Black Tower*. Ray Marsden stars as P.D. James's super-sleuth, the debonair, caustic, refined and poetry-writing chief Inspector. First there was "Death Of An Expert Witness", then "Shroud For A Nightingale" and, most recently, "Cover Her Face". Interestingly, the first two series spent at least one episode setting the scene before introducing the good detective, but more recent efforts have found Mr. Marsden demanding such an astronomical fee that the producers have felt forced to justify it by introducing



Sinister looks and threats in the Black Tower, Monday, 9:10

him in practically frame one, so the first episode of the latest saga of nasty goings-on find Dalglish badly injured in a drugs-raid. While he languishes in hospital he receives an invitation from an old friend, Father Baddeley, chaplain at Tontyn Grange nursing home for incurable diseases. The priest is uneasy about the Grange and its pious (and rather sanctimonious) warden Wilfred Anstey. Responding to the summons, Dalglish limps off to Dorset, only to find Father Baddeley dead and buried. Believe me, if you thought earlier cases fairly sprinkled with strange and unpleasant characters, this crowd beats the lot. For no very good reason Anstey and his helpers wander around dressed up in monks' habits; back-biting, jealousy and frustration abounds amongst the patients, extramarital flings are the norm, and worse is to come. As Dalglish might say: "Just what the doctor ordered." The tension and worry likely to be engendered by this series has little chance of cooling though, since Tuesday continues with *The Brief*. At last some light (albeit rather murky) is being shed on this extremely sinister story. So Leah (R.I.P.) is deemed a "threat to national security." Not that surprising, perhaps, but we have also learnt that Annika's brother is a diplomat in New York. Lucas may think that this is bad news, but he had better prepare himself for when Samantha tells him that she has been reconnoitering for C.N.D. on the East German border. Given her earlier role as a model middle-class housewife and mother, Sam's sudden and total conversion to the cause is slightly perplexing, as is the fact that the various tails pinned on Lucas and Annika would probably be spotted by a blindman, but this can be excused as dramatic license: in the first instance, plot-tightening; in the second, viewer assistance. (If they were proper tails, not only would Lucas miss them, but so would you and I). This week

Lucas's work and home life merge, as he has to fight a case involving access-to-children in court, and Samantha considers divorce. Meanwhile, the secret police continue their nefarious work. Elsewhere Alfred Hitchcock Presents a story on Wednesday about a young drug-dealer (rather a lot of these this week) who has a bad car crash and appears to be dead. Later that night *Play Of The Week* presents "December Flower," about a young girl who saves her old and infirm aunt from a lazy, housekeeper who makes life easy for herself by stuffing the old dear full of sleeping pills. The young girl's ministrations produce some startling discoveries. Finally, Friday has another tale from the *Love And Marriage* series. "Walk Under Ladders" takes two sisters, Christine, (romantic, chaotic and whimsical) and Josie (houseproud and efficient) when Christine strains her back, Josie bustles round to help, advise, and generally make everyone miserable.

Soaps

It may be the last of its breed, but *Return To Eden* remains proud and rampant, plotting away on Thursday nights. It had to happen eventually, of course, and this week it does. Sick and tired of her threats and tantrums, Jake decides to dispose of Jill. So he gets his butter to poison her orange juice while she's taking a dip in the pool. (First it was crocodiles, now it's poison: the pool is evidently an allegory of evil in this particular Eden.) Everything fine and dandy, you might think; that's that particular problem sorted out. But no. For Jake suddenly discovers that Jill is pregnant with his child. Panic. Charging downstairs, he attempts to avert disaster. "Stay thy hand, fair maiden. Let not you gobbletully thine roseate lips!" (Or words to that effect). Meanwhile, Stephanie searches for her and Prince Amal's real son on...

TUESDAY

Duty Free..... 8:30
The Scientific Legacy Of The Arab World..... 9:00
Varieties..... 9:30
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
Feature Film:
Splendour In The Grass..... 10:35

WEDNESDAY

Me And My Girl..... 8:30
The World Challenge..... 9:10
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
The Master..... 10:35

THURSDAY

'Allo, 'Allo..... 8:30
The Black Tower..... 9:10
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
Murder, She Wrote..... 10:35

FRIDAY

Amanda's..... 8:30
The Brief..... 9:10
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
The Equalizer..... 10:35

SATURDAY

Emergency Room..... 8:30
An Islamic Dialogue, Conducted By Farouk Jarrar..... 9:00
Alfred Hitchcock Presents..... 9:30
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
Play Of The Week: "December Flower"..... 10:35

SUNDAY

Home To Roost..... 8:30
Return To Eden..... 9:10
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
Feature Film:
Ultimate Thrill..... 10:35

MONDAY

Mr. Belvedere..... 8:30
Love And Marriage..... 9:10
Ramadan In The World..... 10:20
Hunter..... 10:35

Foreign competitors upset Mideast dancers

ABU DHABI, UAE (AP) — A pulsating Arab drum sounds. With the flick of a hip and the rustle of beads, an American belly dancer steps into the spotlight on the supper club stage of one of Abu Dhabi's leading hotels.

Rachel Cooper, or Rawia as he calls herself, is a 20-year-old from New York City, one of dozens of Western belly dancers from the United States, Holland, Spain, Canada, England and Japan working in the Middle East to the mounting anger of their Arab colleagues.

"They are stealing the money out of our mouths," said Amira Amin, an Egyptian dancer who was to perform later.

"There's nothing oriental about her," observed Ms. Amin. "Rachel resembles more a corporate executive than a belly dancer."

The undulating dancers of the Middle East, who have remained untroubled in their art for ages, now complain bitterly about what they call the unorthodox intruders.

The Egyptian and Lebanese dancers, who have enjoyed a near monopoly on the art in the Middle East, complain that the new foreign dancers are lowering the standards and, more important, underpricing them.

Wages have dropped more than 50 per cent since the U.S. dancers began coming to the Middle East, they said.

A belly dancer now is lucky to get \$200 a night. Two years ago they could expect \$500. The Arab women say their foreign competitors work for as little as \$100 a night.

Ms. Amin said she now earns \$150 a night and shortly will be replaced by a U.S. dancer at the Dubai cabaret where she has appeared frequently.

"You can't blame the American dancers for the Middle East recession," counters Ms. Cooper.

She calls the accusations of underpricing "baloney" (nonsense). She contends that with the fall in oil prices and the recession in the Gulf area clubs are not doing as well as they used to, and therefore owners are only willing

to pay lower rates to dancers.

The available work is shrinking because the oil boom days are over for Arab nightclubs, and because the rise of Islamic fundamentalism has kept many dancers out.

Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar ban such dancing in deference to local religious feelings.

The Gulf war also has had its impact. Iraqi cabaret owners now cannot offer belly dancers payment in dollars, only in non-transferable local currency.

Still, foreign dancers work in much of the Middle East, and many perform in Syria, which is considered the motherland of Arab nationalism.

Most of the foreign dancers are Americans, many from California and New York where schools of oriental dancing operate. There are thought to be about 2,000 U.S. belly dancers, according to sources in the entertainment industry.

Arab dancers contend the performances by U.S. dancers are unwieldy and lack spontaneity. They say the Western women are just dancing the steps they have been taught, and that the American women show more flesh.

"For us, it is something we feel deep inside," said Ms. Amin.

Ms. Cooper said her oriental dancing is the result of six years of serious study of the music and the dance.

Arab women also complain the U.S. women are in the Middle East "only for the money."

Beirut impresario Toros Siranossian, who represents both U.S. and Arab dancers, said that may be true. In the United States, he said, oriental dancers earn only about \$75 a night. Arab nightclubs in the United States also are closing for lack of business, throwing many U.S. dancers out of work.

The U.S. dancers are popular with Arab audiences, said Siranossian.

"They are curious to see them, and many times they are more beautiful than the Arab women," he said bluntly. "But there is nothing to match an Arab girl dancing an oriental belly dance."

Some researchers optimistic, others uncertain about AIDS vaccine

By Daniel Q. Haney

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A vaccine to stop the AIDS epidemic might be ready within four years if research advances smoothly. But many uncertainties lie ahead, and some experts still wonder whether such a vaccine is even possible.

A major test is about to begin that could answer some of these questions.

Chimpanzees at several labs in the United States will be given an experimental vaccine, then exposed to the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus to see if they are shielded from infection.

When the chimpanzees are done, it could be possible to "have something ready to go into humans (for testing) in 1988," said Dr. George Galasso of the National Institute of Health. "And a couple of years after that, you could have a vaccine — if everything went like clockwork and everything worked."

Dr. Gerald Quinnan of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says an experimental vaccine might be ready for human testing even sooner.

"I don't want to be overly optimistic," he said, "but I think looking somewhere around the end of this calendar year as a target isn't totally out of the question."

Galasso's optimism is not shared by all AIDS experts.

Dr. Shiu-Lok Lu, a vaccine researcher at Oncogen, a biotechnology company in Seattle, said, "We really cannot say for sure that a vaccine is even possible. We know much more about influenza than AIDS virus. But there still is not a very good vaccine for influenza on the horizon."

AIDS is a virus that attacks blood cells and breaks down the victim's immunity to infections. It enters the body via the transmission of blood or semen, which is why homosexuals are high-risk groups as well as hemophiliacs who need regular blood transfusions.

A total of 15,131 people in 43 countries had AIDS as of Aug. 30, 1985, the World Health Organization said. But researchers also are faced with more than a million or so healthy carriers of the virus.

Over the years, scientists have conquered other diseases by creating vaccines from viruses. These viral vaccines don't cause human illness, but they trick the body's immune system into arming itself against a disease-causing germ.

The key to all these vaccines are molecules known as antigens on the surface of the viruses. The body's immune system recognizes the shape of an antigen and produces antibodies that match that shape. Once it sees an antigen, it remembers. So if a virus carrying the antigen slips into the bloodstream again, the body attacks the germ and destroys it.

Because the AIDS virus is so dangerous, however, many experts doubt that a live or weakened version of the microbe will be used as a vaccine.

The best hope for a vaccine, Galasso said, is something known as a subunit vaccine. This is the protein that makes up the outer jacket, or envelope, of the virus. When the protein is injected into goats and other creatures, the animals produce antibodies. In test tubes, these antibodies neutralize the AIDS virus.

In the planned experiment, chimps will be inoculated with a pure dose of this protein. Later they'll receive the AIDS virus.

Dr. Dani Bolognesi of Duke University said the chimp studies would attempt to find out if the vaccine protect the chimps from AIDS viruses that have identical envelope proteins, if it will work against viruses that have mutated to have somewhat different outer shells and if it will guard against viruses that are carried into the body within infected cells.

The first of Bolognesi's questions touches on a crucial uncertainty: Can antibodies defeat the AIDS virus? Victims of AIDS produce these antibodies in the course of their disease, but they still die. However, many more people are infected with the AIDS virus but have not gotten sick.

Even if a vaccine protects against one version of the AIDS virus, experts can't be sure that it will disarm the germ's cousins. The AIDS virus mutates with amazing speed, shifting its antigens as it goes. However, some portions of the envelope stay the same through these changes.

No one knows whether these stable regions of the virus' coat will prompt the production of effective antibodies.

Scientists at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, have crafted artificial copies of the stable regions of the virus and injected these fragments into lab animals. The resulting antibodies are being checked in test tubes to see if they will neutralize the AIDS virus.

Yarmouk University classes expected to resume this week

(Continued from page 1)

the students continued their demonstrations and acts of rioting and sabotage within the campus. They smashed doors and windows and damaged anything they could lay hands on.

"In the meantime, the university administration sought the help of a number of prominent personalities in Irbid in a bid to persuade the students to stop their actions and end the chaos and sabotage and leave the campus in peace.

"The dialogue with the students continued late into the night, but they showed no response to all peaceful bids. In view of the situation and acting in response to urgent appeals from the staff and the majority of students, the administration called the police in to end all forms of rioting and sabotage and to restore security and order to the university campus.

"Following the administration's call, unarmed policemen entered the campus at 1:00 a.m. and asked the students to leave. But they were met with stones and empty bottles being hurled on them, injuring 18 police officers who were later taken to hospital for treat-

ment. In the ensuing confrontation and the continuous throwing of stones and bottles two female students, Maha Mohammad Qasem and Marwa Taher Al Sheikh, and a male student, Ibrahim Mohammad Mahmoud Hamdan, died, and several others were slightly injured and treated in hospital.

"Police later took control of the situation and reestablished security and order in the campus.

Several of the students who instigated the trouble were arrested and they are being questioned by the police."

The Interior Ministry statement expressed regret over the acts of rioting which aimed at damaging the university's reputation and the regrettable loss of life that resulted from the disturbances at the hands of "a group of troublemakers who went astray."

Later, Yarmouk University issued a statement suspending final examinations until further notice.

The statement said that the government will allow no-one to tamper with the Kingdom's security and stability or try to cause danger or sabotage to any Jordanian institution. It said strict measures will be taken against those who try to harm the country's security and the safety of Jordanian citizens.

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Mr. Khamenei also threatened that Iran would attack Baghdad in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi bombing of an Iranian train that caused nearly 300 casualties. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

"It is our duty to defend our people and take revenge," Mr. Khamenei said. "We will also avenge those martyred in the Iraqi attack on the passenger train."

Iran has stopped and checked two U.S. ships in or near the Gulf this year for Iraqi-bound cargo. The U.S. said a U.S. warship this

week chased off an Iranian vessel that wanted to inspect a third. Iran's navy commander has also threatened to send his fleet into action if U.S. warships interfere with inspections.

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aggressive presence of America in the Gulf as war and will deliver our blows in the Gulf or outside the Gulf, wherever possible."

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Tehran Radio he did not believe the United States wanted to become directly involved with Iran.

"They (Americans) know the power of Iran, sincere forces are ready to sacrifice themselves for the Islamic republic around the globe," he said.

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Khaddam: Syria will hit back

(Continued from page 1)

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS said on Thursday Israel had sharply stepped up "aggressive preparations" against Syria, concentrating troops in the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

TASS said the military preparations, carried out in close cooperation with the United States, followed "groundless far-fetched" charges of Syria's involvement in "terrorism."

Britain had also actively joined the "anti-Syrian campaign" by expelling three Syrian diplomats, it added, noting that the U.S. air force used bases in Britain to launch its bombing attacks on Libya in April.

"Just as in Libya's case, imperialist circles with the U.S. at the head obviously do not like the independent course carried out by Syria and the consistent stand of that country against separate capitulatory versions of a Middle East settlement under an American-Israeli scenario," TASS said.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said in Moscow on Thursday that Syria could be attacked and warned countries with the power to influence Middle East affairs to consider their actions. He left Thursday night after a three-day visit to the Soviet Union.

In Washington, Edward Djerejian, the deputy White House press secretary for international affairs, said the United States was urging Israel and Syria to exercise caution in spite of current "heightened tensions" in Lebanon.

Speaking at the Foreign Press Centre in Washington, Djerejian said that "we have been in regular contact with both (Israel and Syria), urging caution" on both sides.

State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said questioners on Thursday that United States did not see any indications that current tensions between Israel and Syria will lead to hostilities.

He noted that Secretary of State George Shultz had remarked that new Syrian trenches or fortifications near the Israeli-Lebanese border are the latest in a series of developments going back several months which have heightened tensions between Israel and Syria.

Runner leaves starting gate to 'run the world'

By Mohammed Elfatih Sidahmed
Reuter

KHARTOUM — Omar Khalifa, a champion middle distance runner from drought-stricken Sudan, lit a torch at a relief camp here Friday, launching a worldwide "Sport Aid" week to collect money to help African famine victims.

Khalifa who won the 1,500 metres at last year's World Cup, started the ceremony by lighting a charcoal ember at Mawallith relief camp on the city outskirts as a symbol of hope for millions.

Trained by Sudanese sports teams and hundreds of fans, the 33-year-old star carried the flame in an Olympic-style torch on a two-kilometre run to adjacent Omdurman City.

Sudan's new prime minister, Sadeq Al Mahdi, cabinet ministers and foreign ambassadors greeted Omar at the tomb of Mahdi's great-grandfather, the Mahdi who fought Sudan's British rulers in the 19th century.

The ceremony, in one of the countries worst hit by last year's African drought and famine, started fund-raising athletic events and fun runs in dozens of countries, organised by the top star promoters of the "Band Aid" charity record and the "Live Aid" concert which raised more than \$100 million.

With thousands cheering, Mahdi presented flowers to Khalifa, who held high the burning torch as the temperature soared to 40 centigrade.

In one of his first speeches since becoming prime minister this month, Mahdi thanked those "who helped Africa at large and

Sudan in particular to erase effects of drought and famine."

He hoisted a Sport Aid flag to end the ceremony. Khalifa then headed to Khartoum airport, where he was to take a special flight to Athens, first stop on a whirlwind tour of 12 European cities, in each of which he will run 10 kilometres.

In Paris, Khalifa will be greeted by French President Francois Mitterrand. He will be blessed by Pope John Paul as he runs through St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Khalifa, an army officer hailed as a national hero in Sudan, volunteered to take part in Sport Aid, which the organisers are billing as the world's largest global sport extravaganza.

They say more than one million people in 176 cities will take part in the grand finale on May 25, a worldwide sponsored 10-km "Race Against Time" beamed live on television across the world by satellite.

De Angelis dies in hospital after crash

MARSEILLE, France (R) — Elio De Angelis, one of the top drivers on the international Grand Prix motor racing circuit, died in hospital Thursday 24 hours after his Brabham crashed in a test run at the nearby Le Castellet track. He was 28.

De Angelis, an Italian, was the 10th Formula One driver to be killed in an accident since 1975.

His Brabham crashed while travelling at a speed of 270 kph after it lost a rear spoiler. He suffered burns and severe head injuries when the car spun off the track and doctors in the hospital here were unable to save his life.

Colleagues of De Angelis, including France's Patrick Tambay, said before the news of his death was announced that drivers worried talks with Formula One officials over track safety. They also threatened to boycott the Belgian Grand Prix at Francorchamps near SPA on May 25.

The president of the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA), Jean-Marie Balestre, said in Paris Thursday he had been contacted by other drivers. He said their permanent

committee would meet FISA members in SPA two days before the May 25 race.

He deplored De Angelis' death but said Formula One racing was a dangerous occupation and some accidents were inevitable.

He said the De Angelis tragedy was "as if a plane had crashed."

The Pirelli tyre manufacturer said in Rome it was placing a private plane at the disposal of the De Angelis family.

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Sudan's Omar Khalifa carried the torch on the opening day of "Sport Aid" — billed as a race against time to feed the hungry people of Africa.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

David Pleat to manage Tottenham

LONDON (AP) — English First Division soccer club Tottenham Hotspur named David Pleat as its new manager on Friday, 48 hours after first offering the job to the former Luton Town boss. Pleat was approached by Tottenham Chairman Irving Schuster on Wednesday after the club had dismissed Peter Shreeve. An announcement about its new manager seemed imminent Thursday but Pleat asked for more time to think over the move.

McEnroe enters Wimbledon tourney

LONDON (AP) — John McEnroe, on a self-imposed break from tennis since January, has confirmed his entry for next month's Wimbledon championships, the All England Club announced Friday. With his girlfriend Tatum O'Neal expecting the couple's first child within the next month, reports had suggested that the tempestuous McEnroe would miss Wimbledon, which starts June 23, and delay his return until just before the U.S. Open in August. As recently as Tuesday his father, John McEnroe Sr., said in New York that it was unlikely the younger McEnroe would play at Wimbledon this year.

Brazil's team chef suffers food poisoning

TOLUCA, Mexico (R) — Mario Rocha, chef to the Brazilian soccer squad since 1969, has become the first victim of mild food poisoning in the run-up to next month's World Cup finals, the newspaper Excelsior reported Tuesday. It did not mention what Rocha ate but said he had been laid low by one of his own preparations. Excelsior said none of the Brazilian playing squad had suffered any reaction.

Soviet coach counting on his Kiev players for World Cup

MOSCOW (R) — New Soviet coach Valery Lobanovsky has put his faith in his successful Dynamo Kiev club for the World Cup finals which start in Mexico on May 31.

No fewer than 12 of the 22-man squad announced Thursday came from the Ukrainian team which swept aside all opposition in this year's European Cup Winners' Cup.

Lobanovsky, who replaced Eduard Malofeyev on Tuesday, has dropped eight players who figured in his predecessor's disastrous series of warm-up games this year.

Two of his most experienced midfielders, Spartak Moscow's Fyodor Cherenkov and Sergei Gotsmanov of Dynamo Minsk, stay at home due to injuries. Others, like forward Georgy Kondratyev, are sacrificed in Lobanovsky's gamble for goals.

But two other key players — central defender Alexander Chivadze and veteran striker Oleg Blokhin — will travel and have almost completely recovered fitness.

Lobanovsky, 49, has picked only one uncapped player, reserve goalkeeper Sergei Kravkovsky from Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk. But 10 players have fewer than 10 caps.

The defence has a steady look, however, with Chivadze, Anatoly Demyanenko and Alexander Bubnov accounting for more than 120 caps between them.

Mexico showcases coaches, too

By Timothy Collings
Reuter

LONDON — Four years after guiding Italy to their third World Cup triumph, Enzo Bearzot is setting new records, hoping to emulate a legend in Italian soccer... and dragging several withdrawn veterans of international management into the limelight.

Bearzot, who will be creating a record by participating in his third finals in Mexico following those held in Argentina and Spain, could have been excused for making a dignified exit following his 1982 exploits.

Instead, he is heading towards the strains and pressures of another World Cup finals series in a country where the climate and altitude are sure to add to the problems.

It will be no easy trip for the 58-year-old pipe-smoker who instilled discipline and adventure to the previously wayward and disappointing Italians.

What surely drives him on is an ambition to equal the feats of Vittorio Pozzo, the manager who took Italy to their first World Cup win in Rome in 1934 and then successfully defended the trophy in Paris in 1938.

Pozzo, who managed the Italian team for 20 years, gave Italian soccer an energy and standing that it did not fully recover following his retirement until Bearzot came to power.

Nothing would more perfectly end Bearzot's spell as the architect of Italy's international renaissance than a victory that would enable him to equal Pozzo's remarkable achievement.

Like Bearzot, Spain's Miguel Munoz, Belgium's Guy Thys, Billy Bingham of Northern Ireland, Omar Borrás of Uruguay and Brazil's Tele Santana could all be classified as managers who have outgrown their track suits and men who command as much publicity as their teams or star players.

Munoz, 64, the oldest of the 24 managers at the finals, has seen it

all before as a player and came late to international management. He did not take charge of Spain until 1982 following their poor showing as hosts under Jose Santamaria.

He had been a member of the great Real Madrid side of the late 1950's, captain as they won the European Cup in 1957 and 1958, and took over as coach to the team which won the European Cup in 1960.

But the success which has given him most pleasure has been the revival of Spain's recent fortunes, first indicated when they finished runners-up to France in the 1984 European Championship finals.

In that tournament, his team revealed a new organisation and individual confidence which had been lacking in previous years.

While Munoz attributed the success to the players' hard work, it was clear his leadership had brought stability and respect, qualities he will take to Mexico with a determination to erase the painful memories of failure in 1982.

Thys, 63, an avuncular figure like Munoz, has turned Belgium from comparative also-rans into one of Europe's strongest nations during his 10 years in charge, moulding a resilient team from the successful Bruges and Anderlecht sides of the late 1970s.

In that time, former international defender Thys — whose cheery character and sense of humour hide an iron resolve and strict sense of tactical discipline — has taken Belgium to two World Cup finals series and two European Championships.

His arrival as a new force in international soccer management was announced in 1980 in Italy when Belgium proved to be the surprise team of the tournament, sweeping through to the final, where they were beaten by West Germany.

Northern Ireland have no such proven successes to back Billy Bingham's claims as a top-quality manager, but the 54-year-old former winger has led his unsung and underestimated team to their

second successive finals against all the odds.

Another of the many pipe-smoking coaches, Bingham conceals a shrewd and inventive brain behind the typically light-hearted Irish approach which amazed the Spanish media during the 1982 finals.

He was a great player, won 54 international caps and played for Northern Ireland in the 1958 finals in Sweden. In 51 matches since taking charge in 1980, he has only seen his side lose eight times — a record which makes him the most successful manager in Northern Ireland's history.

By contrast to Bingham, Uruguay's Borrás had no pedigree as a player before moving from physical education into club soccer management in Montevideo 20 years ago.

But Borrás, 55, who led Uruguay to victory in the "Mundialito" in 1981, has never found his lack of a soccer background any disadvantage in creating Uruguay's best team for many years — even earning the backing of the bookmakers who have installed them as third favourites behind Brazil and Argentina.

With his clever grasp of tactics and psychology, his languages and worldly sense of humour, he has given the once-notoriously defensive Uruguayans a more varied attacking style without any loss of defensive efficiency.

Tele Santana, 54, has the most demanding task of all. Anything less than a Brazilian victory will see officials of him burned in the streets of Rio De Janeiro.

But Santana, who built Brazil into the most delightful, inventive and entertaining team at the 1982 finals, has seen that all before too. He was wounded out after Spain, then lured back last year.

A disciple of the traditionally skilful, attacking Brazilian style, Santana has proved he can weld a team of brilliant individuals into a brilliant team — something he and 23 others will be dreaming of achieving in Mexico.

Brazil still not ready for World Cup

By Sergio Leitao
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — The tension is beginning to tell as Brazil's wretched preparations for the World Cup finals lurch from one problem to another.

With 15 days to go before the opening match of the tournament, coach Tele Santana has yet to name his final 22-man squad let alone find a settled and established side.

Injuries to key players, including star midfielder Zico and now defender Mozer, plus the refusal of the experienced Leandro to travel to Mexico, have caused turmoil in the Brazilian squad and sent morale plummeting.

A succession of poor performances in warm-up matches have left Santana at odds with Brazil's soccer crazy public and soured a previously good relationship with journalists. Rumours abound that he could be dismissed.

Santana's delay in naming his 22-man squad has contributed to the rising tension between players. Santana, currently putting 24 players through their paces at

their Mexican training camp in Toluca, is determined to use every available minute before deciding on the party which will bid for Brazil's fourth World Cup triumph. The deadline for the naming of squads is not until May 25.

But with two players soon to be jettisoned the atmosphere is competitive rather than relaxed.

One of Brazil's more outspoken players, striker Casagrande, said the tension began to creep in when 29 players assembled for a long training stint in Brazil last month prior to leaving for Mexico.

"The time we spent at camp in Belo Horizonte, away from our families, was a disaster," he said. "The tension started there and it increased when some players were dropped."

The situation worsened when officials announced a late change of plan and decided against altitude training at Guanajuato, from where Brazil successfully launched the campaign that led to their third victory here in 1970.

Paolo Rossi traded to Verona

MILAN, Italy (AP) — World Cup striker Paolo Rossi has been traded by Italian major league Milan A.C. for Verona's young center-forward Giuseppe Galderisi in the most expensive deal for the next soccer season.

To obtain the 23-year-old star of Verona and the Italian national team, Milan gave the Venetian club and Rossi reportedly \$2.66 million.

Club sources said the final agreement was signed Tuesday night in the presence of the two players,

both members of the Italian team which will play in the World Cup in Mexico later this month.

Rossi, 29, had been acquired from Juventus of Turin last year by Milan, which paid \$4 million.

Rossi, who has had a disappointing season with the Milanese team, also had been sought by the French club Monaco, which gave up negotiations Monday after Rossi demanded a personal contract of \$466,000 a year, the sources said.

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S H E (Colour)

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.5235/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3755/60	Canadian dollars
	2.2110/20	West German marks
	2.4885/95	Dutch guilders
	1.8395/8405	Swiss francs
	45.07/12	Belgian francs
	7.0500/50	French francs
	1515/1516	Italian lire
	165.13/23	Japanese yen
	7.1190/1240	Swedish crowns
	15.275/5375	Norwegian crowns
	8.1825/1900	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	342.40/90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices finished after their low after two spells of bargain hunting on Friday. Dealers said. Equities had begun lower in continuing response to the recent Natwest rights issue and the declines on Wall Street.

"There's been no real volume today," one dealer said, adding that operators are disinclined to take on large new lines of stock with so many recent rights issues to absorb.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 10.4 to 1,565.3, having been as low as 1,554.0 Friday morning. Some analysts are now saying the index might find a resistance level at around 1,550 points. The index has fallen from 1,721.7 in just over a month.

Government bonds pared early falls of almost one point to around 3/4 point at the longer end on selective bargain hunting, dealers said. Gilt was marked down Friday morning in response to the much larger than expected jump in U.S. M-1 money supply announced on Thursday. A sharply lower U.S. credit markets opening on Friday was discounted by the early declines, dealers said.

There was speculation among dealers on Friday that 10 1/2 per cent U.K. clearing bank base rates might be reduced by another 1/2 point in the wake of the U.K. April retail price index data. But doubts about a near term base rate cut were cast by an early rise in the key three month interbank sterling rate.

Dollar edges upwards

FRANKFURT (R) — The dollar rose strongly in European trading Friday following indications from Japan and West Germany they were ready to intervene to support the U.S. currency, dealers said.

Traders said the dollar was also supported by the continuing rise in long-term U.S. interest rates. The dollar opened above 2.20 marks in Frankfurt at 2.2065, well above Thursday's close of 2.1900. It was trading at 2.2120 in mid-morning.

In London, the dollar firmed to £1.5215 against Thursday's close of £1.5355.

The dollar also closed higher in Tokyo after a small amount of dollar buying by the Bank of Japan, dealers in Tokyo said.

The U.S. unit finished at 164.80 yen against 162.70 at the close in Tokyo Thursday. In morning European trading it rose above 165 yen.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Friday the time was near for joint dollar-buying intervention by central banks on foreign exchange markets.

Earlier, Bundesbank (West German central bank) President Karl Otto Poehl said joint intervention could be useful to prevent the dollar from falling too strongly.

The dollar opened higher in moderately active trading in Zurich, where traders said the statements from Bonn and Tokyo and the prospect of higher U.S. interest rates brought a sudden change in mood. It opened at 1.8380 Swiss francs, up from the previous finish of 1.8212.

The U.S. currency also rose in hectic early trading in Paris to 7.0725 francs after opening at 7.0355 and closing Thursday at 7.000.

Dealers in Frankfurt said there seemed to be a divergence of opinion between the U.S. administration and European and Japanese monetary authorities on the other.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said on Wednesday he did not believe the dollar drop had been excessive.

Dealers said many operators were confused by the conflicting statements and were taking a cautious approach. "They do not want to be caught on the wrong side," one dealer for a large West German bank said.

"The U.S. wants to see the dollar decline further to boost exports. The Japanese and West Germans want to stop a further dollar drop, because the strength of the mark and the yen is already hurting their heavily export-oriented industries," said one dealer for a U.S.-based bank in Frankfurt.

Wall Street stocks expected to continue weak

Meanwhile, Wall Street stocks are not expected to resume their recent rally until summer, with Thursday's dramatic falloff attributed to concern over interest rates and computer-related selling, analysts said.

Wall Street stocks slid to their worst loss of the month Thursday as rising interest rates contributed to a sharp reversal of Tuesday's closing rally.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 33.60 points to 1774.68, its biggest drop since the record 41.91 point drop last April 30.

On Tuesday, the average of 30 blue chip stocks jumped 23 points, mostly in the final minutes. New York Stock Exchange declines led advances 1,125 to 432. Volume fell to 131.6 million shares from 132.1 million Tuesday.

"It's going to be a tough climate for stocks to move upward," said Mr. Newton Zinder of brokerage F.F. Hutton. "First we need some stability in bonds."

Stability could derive from a perception that bonds have fallen too far. "One saving grace is that the bond market may be oversold," he said.

Bonds reacted negatively to the unexpected industrial output gain for April, up 0.2 per cent, versus an expected decline. "Bonds have been down for a while and the stock market has been ignoring them," said Mr. Jon Groveman of Ladenburg Thalmann, an investment firm.

Many traders felt the market started off with a difficult task, since Tuesday's late snap rally was viewed as an excessive runup. "The market is paying for its sins," said Mr. Groveman.

Air France increases profits

PARIS (R) — The French state-owned airline Air France Thursday confirmed that its economic recovery was continuing when it announced a further sharp increase in profits last year and said it would pay a dividend to the French authorities for the second consecutive year.

Air France's net profit climbed 36.7 per cent to 728.9 million francs (\$105 million) in 1985 and the airline said it planned to pay a dividend of 126 million francs (\$18 million) to the French authorities, around two-thirds more than it paid in its 1984 results.

The healthy 1985 performance followed a six-fold jump in profits in 1984, and came in the wake of losses in both 1981 and 1982 and a small profit in 1983, the first years of President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist administration.

The airline said that it also planned to raise its capital by around 28 per cent to 2.53 billion francs (\$367 million).

British carrier cuts activities

LONDON (R) — British Caledonian, Britain's largest private airline, Thursday announced cuts in jobs and services because of falling business due partly to U.S. fears of guerrilla attacks in Europe.

The airline, which made record profits last year, reported a drop in bookings over the North Atlantic and in the Middle East.

It said it planned to cut summer flights over the North Atlantic from 35 to 33 a week and to Saudi Arabia by one to 13.

It also plans to seek a cut of more than 1,000 in its 7,750 work force through voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

U.S.-EC trade dispute escalates

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan Thursday night announced quotas effective next Monday on white wine, beer, fruit juices, chocolate and candy from the European Community (EC) worth a total of \$500 million a year in trade.

But the quotas were set at high levels — the white wine quota is 40 per cent above 1985 shipments — because the EC had assured U.S. officials that the Portuguese measures would do no damage to U.S. grain exports this year.

"We have been assured by the EC that their quotas will have no immediate impact on our trade. As long as that remains the case, our quotas will be similarly non-restrictive," Mr. Speakes said.

U.S. imports of nearly \$300 million a year of white wine were previously limited only by tariffs.

"What we are attempting to do is mirror the actions of the EC. When they put a hit on us we'll come back and do a likewise hit on them, same dollar impact," Mr. Speakes said.

When Mr. Reagan threatened to retaliate, the EC drew up a list of U.S. products earmarked for reprisals if the U.S. proceeded. That list included such politically sensitive U.S. exports as soybean meal and corn gluten feed.

Mr. Speakes also said the United States had decided to suspend certain tariff concessions on a further \$600 million a year in EC products in response to new higher duties in Spain's corn and sorghum imports.

However, Washington will delay increasing duties until July 1 to give negotiators time to resolve a U.S. claim for trade compensation.

"This is a dispute the U.S. sought to avoid. But we cannot overlook the EC's unilateral actions which clearly violate GATT rules and affect some of our most sensitive exports," Mr. Speakes said.

The U.S. announcement, originally scheduled for May 1, was delayed until after Mr. Reagan returned from the Tokyo economic summit meeting with leaders from Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada.

U.S. officials said this was to avoid disrupting the summit talks on world trade and international economic reform.

Oil firms suffer setbacks

LONDON (OPECNA) — British Petroleum (B.P.), the major North Sea oil operator, suffered \$1.07 billion in stockholding losses during the first quarter of this year, it was announced here Thursday.

Group results have been heavily influenced by the sharp fall in crude oil prices. B.P. chairman Sir Peter Walters said.

He was quoted by the UPI news agency as saying that the oil market was likely to remain "highly volatile" through the rest of the year.

"We are taking positive steps to sustain our financial strength by tightly controlling planned capital and operating expenditure," he added.

Royal Dutch Shell, the world's second largest oil company, also reported a sharp fall in its first quarter profits as a result of declining oil prices.

According to figures quoted by the Associated Press (AP), the company registered a net income of \$1.1 billion for the quarter, down from \$1.67 billion during the same period of 1985.

Petro-Lewis Corporation, one of America's largest oil and gas drillers, said Thursday it had lost \$346.9 million in the first quarter of this year compared to a loss of only \$5.1 million in the same period a year ago.

The Denver-based company attributed the loss to a \$332 million depreciation of its oil and gas assets.

The Federal Securities and Exchange Commission rejected a proposal on May 6, which would have enabled oil and gas producers to avoid large write-offs as a result of the plummeting value of oil and gas reserves since the beginning of the year.

Industry analysts have said the ruling would force scores of other independent oil producers to write down their assets for the quarter.

Amoco Oil company, one of America's largest gasoline distributors, is discontinuing its dealer and wholesale marketing operations in five states due to "declining market share, low profitability and depressed volume."

A company announcement in

Chicago said the states involved were Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Texas, Louisiana and Connecticut.

Amoco also cited its increasing dependence on outside sources for gasoline in the areas, which meant reduced profit margins.

In 1985, Amoco Oil — the refining and marketing subsidiary of the Amoco Corporation — sold 510,000 barrels per day (bpd) of refined gasoline, but produced only 459,000 bpd.

Amoco said it would close most of the affected operations by next January — apart from those in Fairfield and New Haven counties — being discontinued on May 31, 1987.

The company said six per cent, or 924, of its 15,000 domestic gasoline stations would be affected.

Mr. Sam Van Sickle, senior marketing president for Amoco Oil, said no final decision had been made about the disposal of the affected assets.

A company spokesman said Amoco was negotiating with the Mobil Corporation for the sale of 225 gasoline stations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, Norwegian Finance Minister Gunnar Berge has said that for his country's "more open attitude to OPEC" to be effective, it will have to "encompass the entire North-Sea area."

The minister said a similar attitude had to come from the British government, according to a Reuters report.

He urged Britain — the major North Sea oil producer — to open a "sensible dialogue" with OPEC on boosting world oil prices.

While Norway had signalled its willingness to cooperate with OPEC, "we (Norway and Britain) have to do it together," the minister emphasised.

He said there were no "immediate plans" to meet Britain for discussions on the North Sea, but cooperation need not necessarily mean reducing crude production.

The U.K. energy department has said that the British government foresees no change in its oil production policy despite Norway's willingness to cooperate with OPEC.

Speakes said.

Reacting to the White House statement, French External Trade Minister Michel Noir told French radio that the EC would immediately respond with counter-measures.

"If the Americans impede our white wine exports, we shall hit back on sunflower or honey. If they impede our beer and apple exports, we shall hit back on beer, prunes or fruit juice," he said.

But other EC officials were more restrained. A spokeswoman for the EC Commission in Washington said Brussels would review the announcement before responding.

When Mr. Reagan threatened to retaliate, the EC drew up a list of U.S. products earmarked for reprisals if the U.S. proceeded. That list included such politically sensitive U.S. exports as soybean meal and corn gluten feed.

Mr. Speakes also said the United States had decided to suspend certain tariff concessions on a further \$600 million a year in EC products in response to new higher duties in Spain's corn and sorghum imports.

However, Washington will delay increasing duties until July 1 to give negotiators time to resolve a U.S. claim for trade compensation.

"This is a dispute the U.S. sought to avoid. But we cannot overlook the EC's unilateral actions which clearly violate GATT rules and affect some of our most sensitive exports," Mr. Speakes said.

The U.S. announcement, originally scheduled for May 1, was delayed until after Mr. Reagan returned from the Tokyo economic summit meeting with leaders from Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada.

U.S. officials said this was to avoid disrupting the summit talks on world trade and international economic reform.

France relaxes controls

PARIS (R) — The French government said Thursday it was taking new steps to relax controls on foreign currency transactions and the domestic banking system in a bid to bolster the economy.

The reforms, the second major package since the rightwing RPR-UDF coalition took power in March, will give French businessmen and investors more freedom from government controls than at any time since 1968, Finance Minister Edouard Balladur told a news conference.

In 1968 France opted out of European Community treaty clauses calling for freedom of capital movements inside the Community.

But from now on French investors will be allowed to buy foreign property or securities without having to pay a premium. The premium had been paid through a restricted "investment currency pool" introduced by President Francois Mitterrand's first Socialist government in 1981, Mr. Balladur said.

French firms will also have increased freedom to buy foreign currency to cover their imports for up to six months ahead, and the abolition of an official queuing system will ease their access to domestic capital markets, Mr. Balladur said.

In addition, the latest package offered banks greater freedom to set interest rates, establish new branches and develop fresh ways of raising funds through the issue of money market securities.

The measures came two days after a warning from the National Statistics Institute that France's sluggish economy was falling farther behind those of its main competitors.

This was happening despite the boon of cheap oil and the impact of a French franc devaluation last month, the institute said.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has been under growing pressure from his rightwing supporters recently to speed up the economic relaxations pledged in his pre-March election manifesto.

Mr. Balladur said Thursday's package had been made possible by the success of the April devaluation, which cut the parity of the franc by 5.8 per cent against the West German mark in the European Monetary System (EMS).

A flood of foreign funds into France in the three weeks after the devaluation has raised official reserves by a 50 billion francs (more than \$7 billion), he said.

Besides enabling the government to relax foreign exchange controls, the inflow made room for it to cut interest rates and negotiate an early repayment of foreign debts taken on by the Socialist administration, he added.

The measures won praise from the employers' federation and bankers but interest rate cuts announced at the same time have caused resentment among small savers.

Employers' leader, Mr. Yvon Gattaz, told industrialists in Bordeaux that the measures were "the first coherent package designed to improve the situation of companies."

The government has just taken measures to create jobs which no government has taken before. It is essential that heads of industry realise this and take on workers from now on without restraint," he said.

His warm words came just two days after Prime Minister Jacques Chirac issued a warning to business leaders that they should take advantage of falling interest rates and more liberal economic policies to increase activity and boost employment.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment has stayed obstinately around 2.4 million for more than a year, equal to about 10 per cent of the work force.

A spokesman for the French Banking Association welcomed the package, although banking sources said that there was a risk that the exchange and credit controls being relaxed could be replaced by other controls.

Business was generally in favour of the measures but small savers reacted with resentment to the 1.5 per cent cut in the interest rate on savings accounts.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is fine for using your basic cleverness and resourcefulness to make a specific course of action in which every detail is put in its right place.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) No matter whether at the office or home, get busy and handle your work load well. Don't let a new contact take you away from your work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Spruce up your appearance early in the day, and then you can make a fine impression on those you deal with.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy at the duties awaiting you at home, and plan your time wisely. Try to avoid someone who may upset you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Go after that information you need and then apply yourself seriously to get your work completed.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get busy at whatever will bring you greater abundance and forget that recreation you have in mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are a perfectionist so carry on with whatever you have in mind without the intervention of family.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get at those personal duties and they are soon completed and await the evening for recreation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) State what it is you desire and your good friends can help you attain personal desires.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A good day to handle any civic or credit matters you desire to improve and be clever at this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study into some new project that interests you and don't permit a gossipy friend to take up your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Forget gregariousness for today and get busy making collections and paying bills. Do what your mate wants.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan time to see what an associate expects of you in the days ahead. Keep promises made to important people.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have much ability at precision types of work, so slant the education along such lines. Be sure to add courses in psychology or philosophy so that your progeny can understand his fellow man better and be able to communicate well with everyone.

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- 1 Hameçons
- 5 Lanchettes
- 9 Venerable monk
- 13 Taj Mahal site
- 14 Deers
- 16 Russ, sea
- 17 Ristang
- 20 Pullet product
- 21 Course
- 22 Actress Dahl
- 23 Carapace paste
- 24 Cameroun kin
- 25 Riddles
- 26 Certain desks
- 32 Jet jockey
- 33 Gels and slender up
- 34 Baptism bench
- 35 Eager
- 36 — dandy
- 37 Sage
- 38 Engine roar
- 39 Profound sleep
- 40 Transport for Unicef

DOWN

- 1 Puck's target
- 2 Enchanted
- 3 Ship's lock-up
- 4 Siran or Cremen
- 5 Gushes forth
- 6 Give the slip
- 7 Be mindful of
- 8 Pale
- 9 Talcot's Torcher

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

10 Pa. port	49 Sether
11 Curse	50 Profiler
12 North Sea	51 Lulu
15 Snappish one	52 Grim monster
18 Allow	54 Be obligated
19 Seed coverings	55 City of satire
23 Stir to action	56 City of satire
24 Cloney	
25 West and boom	
26 Air, cat	
27 Oil-producing	
28 Severity	
29 Expresso	
30 Change in	
31 Gaocharlie	
32 Madras money	
33 Evening	
37 Election	
38 Trivial	
40 Conscient	
41 Chiro e.g.	

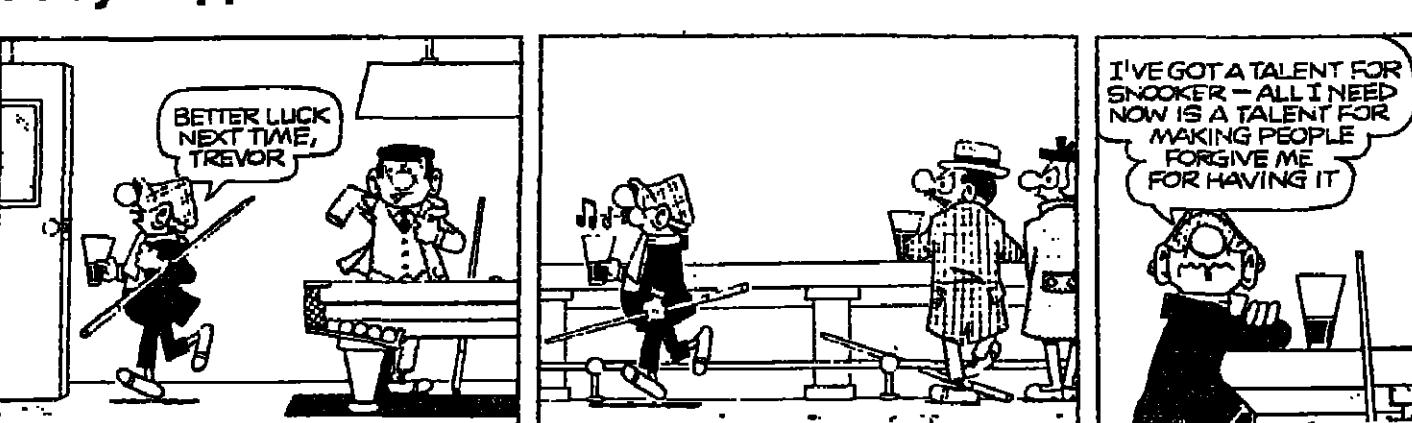
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Leo

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ORRAM

SOPIE

BANZER

LADJIE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: AN

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DIRTY EMPTY FAMILY INTONE

Answer: When a kid fell down while walking through a pasture, it must have been this—A FIELD "TRIP"

10th Chernobyl victim dies

Gorbachev: U.S. reaction sours summit mood

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet newspapers indicated Friday that the Chernobyl nuclear disaster had claimed a 10th life and said five of the dead were firemen who braved massive doses of radiation to douse flames engulfing the reactor.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking on Soviet television on Wednesday night, said nine people had died in the accident.

But reports in three different newspapers Friday named eight people who had died following the April 26 accident. The names did not include the two mentioned by Mr. Gorbachev in his Wednesday speech.

Those two victims apparently died instantly in the explosion that ripped through the No. 4 reactor, sparking a fierce fire that set alight the graphite core.

The Communist Party daily Pravda on Friday opened its report on the Chernobyl disaster with a description of the grief felt by plant workers on hearing that a co-worker had died.

"For a long time, we cannot begin the conversation," Pravda's correspondents wrote. "Just a few minutes ago, word arrived that Leichenko had died. Burns and radiation did their work. Leichenko was their friend..."

Friends interviewed by Pravda said plant worker Leichenko was "a real hero" who was at the scene of the disaster in the first hours after the accident occurred.

The youth newspaper Kommunist Prava had similar words of praise for the firemen who battled the fierce flames that took more than 50 firefighting teams some four hours to begin to control on the night of the accident.

It focused on Viktor Kibenok, a 23-year-old firefighter who was said to have fought the flames for up to three hours, not caring about the dangers posed by what the newspaper called "the invisible enemy" of radiation.

The account said Kibenok died of burns and radiation 15 days after the accident, and named four other firemen who had died.

A report by the Soviet News Agency TASS published in the Moscow daily Moskovskaya Pravda named two other people who had died following the accident.

Alexander Akimov, a shift leader at the No. 4 reactor, and Anatoly Kurguz, an operator, had received last respects from friends and colleagues, it said, without detailing how or when the two men died.

Mr. Gorbachev named two men who had died in the accident as Vladimir Shoshenok, an adjuster

of automatic systems, and Valery Khodemchuk, an operator.

The defence daily Krasnaya Zvezda said many of the helicopter pilots who have flown daily missions over the damaged reactor had served previously against Muslim rebels in Afghanistan.

The helicopters have been flying over the reactor to dump sand and other materials to seal off its radioactive emissions. Krasnaya Zvezda said the helicopter crews also measure radiation levels above the damaged reactor four times a day.

The indication that another victim had died came a day after a U.S. bone marrow specialist who came to Moscow to help treat victims said more of those exposed to lethal doses of radiation would die.

The specialist, Dr. Robert P. Gale, said he and three other visiting specialists had performed 19 bone marrow transplants and were working with Soviet doctors to save almost 300 people hospitalised with radiation injuries.

Dr. Gale made the statements at a news conference before going to the Kremlin with American industrialist Armand Hammer for a meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader, looking tanned, was accompanied by former Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Dobrynin, who is now head of the International Department of the Communist Party's Central Committee.

Mr. Gorbachev told Mr. Hammer that Washington's reaction to the Chernobyl disaster had done nothing to improve relations between the superpowers and repeated his claim that the Ukrainian accident has spawned an anti-Soviet campaign.

Mr. Gorbachev said the political climate had to be improved if a second meeting with President Ronald Reagan was to be held.

"As to the atmosphere, it has worsened even more as a result of a vicious anti-Soviet campaign launched by Washington in connection with the accident at Chernobyl," he said.

The meeting was reported on television news and by TASS.

He stepped up accusations, made by several Soviet officials, that some Western countries had deliberately used Chernobyl as a political weapon to discredit the Kremlin.

Mr. Gorbachev told the U.S. visitors there was no point in holding another summit unless tangible results could be gained.

Dr. Gale told Mr. Gorbachev the accident showed doctors would be powerless to help in the event of a nuclear war.

He made the same point at a news conference earlier in the day, saying: "If we are very hard pressed to deal with 300 cases, it should be evident how inadequate our response would be in a thermonuclear war."

Gandhi: Pretoria heading towards explosion

HARARE (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Friday South Africa was heading toward a major racial conflict unless the white-dominated government took steps soon to end its apartheid racial segregation policies.

Mr. Gandhi, ending a 26-hour visit to Zimbabwe, told a news conference in Harare the main task of a Commonwealth group holding talks with South African leaders was to ensure Pretoria's problems were resolved with the "minimum of bloodshed."

"We (the Commonwealth) want to avoid a major explosion. But I see the trends that South Africa is heading for a major explosion," he said, adding that whatever political reforms Pretoria made would not stem the rising tide of black anger against apartheid.

But, in answer to a question, he did not rule out the prospect of the Commonwealth peace mission succeeding in resolving Pretoria's problems.

"But apartheid must go... everything else is peripheral," said the Indian leader, who Thursday warned Pretoria to expect international economic sanctions if race separation laws were not scrapped.

Mr. Gandhi's comments, at a dinner in his honour given by Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe Thursday night, were a clear reference to a peace initiative by a Commonwealth group holding talks with South African leaders.

The group was formed by the 49-nation Commonwealth last year after Britain rejected sanctions at a Commonwealth leaders' conference. Its mandate is to try bring together in South Africa government and its black opponents and the team will report back to the Commonwealth in July.

Mr. Gandhi, visiting Africa for the first time since he became prime minister in 1984, said at the banquet:

"No form of apartheid is acceptable to us. Institutionalised racism must be abolished — it must be abolished now (or) there is no alternative to comprehensive mandatory sanctions under the United Nations charter."

He urged South Africa to follow the example of Zimbabwe, which gained independence from Britain in 1980 after a seven-year guerrilla war between African nationalists and the white rulers.

India blocks release of report on Gandhi killing

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The government will not release reports on the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and subsequent riots which killed thousands of people, official sources said Friday.

The sources said President Zail Singh signed an ordinance Thursday night allowing the government to keep reports secret if they affect the security of the state or the public interest.

India's constitution stipulates that the government must present reports of official inquiries to parliament within six months of their completion, effectively making the contents public.

Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated in October 1984 and more than 2,700 people were killed in nationwide anti-Sikh protests triggered by her murder.

The assassination report was submitted to the government in February and the protest probe is expected by Aug. 25.

The presidential order came shortly after one of Mrs. Gandhi's killers asked for the report to be produced in court.

The assassin, former police constable Satwant Singh, and two other Sikhs charged with conspiracy to murder were sentenced to death by a lower court in January.

The Delhi high court began hearing their appeals against the sentences on Monday.

The sources said the assassination probe criticised "serious lapses" in security around the murdered prime minister.

Mrs. Gandhi was killed five months after she ordered the army to storm the Golden Temple in

Amritsar to root out heavily-armed Sikh extremists.

Lawyers for the three Sikhs told reporters the ordinance would prejudice the murder pleas. "It is a fraud on parliament and will trample on the citizen's right to know," one defence lawyer said.

Meanwhile, a curfew was ordered in a small town in Maharashtra, a western state where three more people died in sectarian violence, the United News of India (UNI) reported Friday.

Thirteen people have been killed in weeklong protests and arson in the state.

The violence, according to authorities, was triggered by Muslim attacks on Hindu processions celebrating the birth anniversary of a 17th-century Hindu ruler, Shivaji.

UNI quoted state police in Bombay saying two people were burned to death and 40 thatched homes set afire late Thursday in widespread communal violence in Beed district.

Authorities clamped an indefinite curfew on Umapur, 300 kilometres east of Bombay, where protests broke out Thursday night, the agency said.

Meanwhile, a person wounded in earlier interfaith clashes died Friday in a hospital in Nasik city, where eight people have been killed so far, UNI reported.

The sectarian violence erupted in Nasik a week ago and spread to several other towns in the state.

Maharashtra Police Director-General S.S. Jog said Friday that the situation in the troubled town had been brought under control by police reinforcements.

China, Taiwan to hold historic talks

HONG KONG (R) — China and Taiwan Saturday begin their first face-to-face meeting since the civil war of the 1940s to discuss a Taiwan jet and its crew now on the mainland.

Officials of Taiwan's state-run China Airlines and CAAC, China's national carrier, have arrived on the "neutral" ground of this British colony for talks which Western diplomats say should be brief.

"China has already wrung the most important concession from Taiwan — the agreement to meet face-to-face," one diplomat said.

Taiwan made a dramatic policy switch this week by saying it would meet China directly to secure the release of a China Airlines Boeing 747, which would cost \$100 million to replace, and the crew who

landed in the south China city of Canton on May 3.

Pilot Wang Jixue said he defected to join his family on the mainland but two other crewmen said they wished to go home.

Diplomats said China was using the incident to force negotiations with anti-Communist Taiwan, which had refused all direct contact since its Nationalist government fled the mainland ahead of the advancing Communist armies in 1949.

China Airlines insisted the talks would cover only the return of the Boeing 747 plane and its crew and warned Peking not to raise political issues.

Political sources said there was still last minute wrangling over the venue, with Taiwan trying to preserve a prominent role for Hong

Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways which acted as broker in arranging the talks.

They said that would minimise the appearance of direct contact while China hoped to limit the role of Cathay as middleman to highlight the direct nature of the talks.

But diplomats said the manoeuvring would not endanger the more important issue of returning the plane and crew.

"There may be some final propaganda point scoring but it is in no one's interest to drag this issue out," said one diplomat.

Political sources in Hong Kong said the main problem would be the return of the plane. The two crewmen, who were still in Canton earlier this week, could be taken to Hong Kong with little trouble.

Botha gives no ground on majority rule

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African President P.W. Botha has shown no sign of bowing to pressure for black majority rule, delivering a hard-line speech as Commonwealth mediators pursued a peace mission.

Mr. Botha's speech to the advisory President's Council was televised live Thursday during a visit by a seven "eminent persons" sent by the Commonwealth to try to bring together the white-led government and black nationalists.

The Commonwealth team's talks were surrounded by secrecy but diplomats said it seemed to be trying to persuade the government to recognise the banned African National Congress (ANC), the main black nationalist organisation, in return for an ANC ceasefire and negotiations.

The ANC wants one person, one vote, and Mr. Botha Thursday defended the position of the country's white minority, who began settling in South Africa in the 17th century.

"We will not allow our spiritual and material heritage, built up over 300 years, to fall willy nilly into the hands of a revolutionary power clique," he said.

He warned "those who perpetrate violence... that if they do not renounce violence, they will inevitably face the full power at the state's disposal, which has not nearly been applied to the full."

In Johannesburg Thursday, a Belgian woman, 44-year-old Helene Passtours, was convicted of treason for helping the ANC.

The ANC has stepped up guerrilla attacks and more than 1,500 people have been killed in black protests in the past 27 months.

Most have died in clashes with security forces, others in violence between black radicals and those they accuse of collaborating with the authorities.

In KwaZulu, which the government intends to make an "independent" black homeland in December under its racial segregation policy, officials said Thursday seven people died in protests this week.

12 bodies recovered from Bangladesh train crash

DHAKA, Bangladesh (Agencies) — Twelve bodies were recovered from the wreckage of a train that derailed near Kushtia and officials said the death toll could rise to 50, a newspaper reported Friday.

The train derailed on the 12 coaches of the Simanta Express train ran off the track Thursday and rolled into a 5-metre ditch 227 kilometres west of Dhaka.

The Bengali-language paper said rescue operations were temporarily stopped during the night with many bodies still believed trapped inside the derailed cars.

More than 200 passengers were injured, of which 50 were hospitalised, the newspaper said.

Bangladesh Railway said six people were killed and 24 injured. Officials were not immediately available for comment on the newspaper report.

Bangladesh Railway said Thursday that track plates near the derailment were found open, suggesting sabotage by highway robbers. But Ittefaq correspondents quoted Kushtia district officials as saying the track had not been tampered with.

Ittefaq reported from the scene that the train, with about 700 passengers, had been running at about 80 kilometres per hour en route from the south western port city of Khulna to northern Faridpur railway township.

He said most of the passengers were sleeping while others were doing rituals for the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

It was the fourth accident for the Simanta Express on the line since 1979, when more than 80 passengers were killed. A fire on the train in January 1985 killed at least 40.

Soviet troops reportedly trade detainee with rebels

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Soviet troops last week sold a captured Afghan rebel to his guerrilla comrades for several thousand dollars and a Kalashnikov automatic rifle, an Afghan doctor reported.

The Soviets, who captured wounded rebel Sher Mohammad on May 3 near Sardi east of Kabul, accepted the gun and 300,000 Afghans as ransom for him, said Dr. Hamid Sherdill, who said he witnessed the return last Friday.

The ransom sum equals \$2,222 at the widely-used black market rate for the Afghan currency but \$5,434 at the unrealistic official rate. Kalashnikovs sell in the arms bazaars of Pakistan's border area for about \$1,000.

Rebels have reported several swaps of guerrillas for Soviet soldiers held by the insurgents but straight payments of ransom money for captured rebels have been rare.

Dr. Sherdill, a Paris-based representative of the Jamiat-Islami Party, told Reuters neither Afghan troops nor Afghan Communist officials had any part in the deal.

Sher Mohammad, who suffered two bullet wounds while attacking a military post near Sardi, was badly treated during his captivity, Dr. Sherdill said.

The doctor did not know why the Soviets released their captive or wanted the Afghan money. According to Western diplomats, Soviet troops often sell bullets, stolen supplies or siphoned petrol to Afghans to get money for drugs or consumer goods like Japanese radios they cannot buy at home.

Meanwhile Soviet and Afghan forces have launched an offensive against Muslim rebel bases near the Pakistani border, striking while guerrillas were observing the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Communist ground forces struck at Jaji in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday night, firing rockets and mortars at rebel hideouts illuminated by mountain top fires set off by flares and incendiary bombs, rebels said.

The drive against bases in Jaji was aimed at blocking guerrilla supply routes from Pakistan, they said, as was an offensive last month at Zhawar, a rebel stronghold further south.

London probes new allegations against Waldheim

LONDON (AP) — The British government has ordered a check of its military records following new allegations against Austrian presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim that he was involved in Nazi atrocities in World War II.

Dr. Waldheim, a former United Nations secretary-general, was accused in a House of Commons motion Thursday of involvement in the disappearance of British servicemen while he served with the wartime German army in the Balkans.

The motion signed by 45 legislators alleged a link between Dr. Waldheim and the deaths of British commandos taken prisoner. It said Dr. Waldheim allegedly was in charge of interrogating the Britons who were later murdered or died in German hands.

Dr. Waldheim, who faces a second round-run-off election in the contest for the Austrian presidency on June 8, has already been accused in Austria, the United States and elsewhere of involvement in atrocities against Serbs, Jews and Gypsies.

He has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Alf Morris of the opposition Labour Party was one of the legislators who signed the motion.

Mr. Morris asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in a written Commons question Thursday why her government was "unwilling to seek from the United Nations copies of all documents in their possession relating to Dr. Kurt Waldheim's wartime activities."

Mrs. Thatcher told Mr. Morris in a written Commons reply that no request had been made to date because there had appeared to be no direct British interest.

But she added: "In view of recent new allegations about the disappearance of British subjects in the Balkans... the Ministry of Defence are searching military records to see whether they contain any information relevant in this context."

Another Labour legislator, Greville Janner, who is also president of board of deputies of British Jews, welcomed the British inquiry but urged speed to produce results in advance of the Austrian elections.

Centrist likely to win Dominican polls

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (R) — Two centrist candidates — both former presidents — appear favourites in Friday's presidential election in the Dominican Republic.

The election, in which six candidates are standing, promises to be close, according to newspaper evaluations.

Most opinion polls put Jacobo Majluta, 51, of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party

(PRD), as the front-runner.

But his strongest rival, 78-year-old poet Joaquin Balaguer of the Reformist Social Christian Party (PRSC), closed the gap in the past few days.

Despite his age, reported ill health and the fact that he is almost blind, Balaguer draws support from rural areas because of the agrarian reforms he initiated toward the end of his 12 years in office from 1966 to 1978.

White, 71, began a trend in American political reporting with the Making of the President, 1960, a highly detailed account of the election battle between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

His authoritarian and personal style of government also won him the esteem of the Middle classes and the business community which surfaced in his backward nation under his administration.

But Mr. Majluta's comparative youth, good health, experience in finance and support among the fast-growing urban population appear to give him the edge, political sources said.

Author of U.S. political works dies at 71

NEW YORK (R) — Author Theodore White, whose chronicles of U.S. presidential elections became international bestsellers, died late Thursday night a week after suffering a stroke, a hospital spokeswoman said.

White, 71, began a trend in American political reporting with the Making of the President, 1960, a highly detailed account of the election battle between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

The book sold 4.2 million copies and stayed on U.S. best-seller lists for almost a year, turning White from a respected magazine writer into the country's most prominent expert on presidential politics.

He wrote three other Making of the President books — in 1964, 1968 and 1972.

White began his career in journalism as a Time magazine correspondent in China during World

War II. His dispatches criticising the Nationalist government often were censored by the magazine, then run by the strongly pro-Nationalist Henry Luce.

After resigning from Time, White wrote a bestseller Thunder Out of China.

He also broke his pattern of presidential campaign books with a 1975 work, Breach of Faith — The Fall of Richard Nixon, about the factors that led to Nixon's fall from power and resignation.

Contadora group opens crucial round of peace talks

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Deputy foreign ministers of the four-nation Contadora group were expected to open crucial talks Friday with counterparts from the five central American countries to try to iron out longstanding differences over a regional peace accord.

The meeting is expected to be a make-or-break session for the peace plan, which calls for arms limitation in Central America, troops reduction and a ban on international military manoeuvres.

The Contadora group — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama — has been working since January 1983 to reach a negotiated end to regional bloodshed.

The latest round of talks here, scheduled to last until Sunday, has been thrown into the spotlight by self-imposed pressures on the group to come up quickly with the concrete results that have eluded it for more than three years.

Negotiations held under Contadora auspices last month broke down with little sign of progress after Nicaragua's Sandinista government said it would refuse to

sign any agreement committing it to disarmament unless the United States first vowed to stop backing anti-Sandinista rebels.

U.S. officials, including special envoy to Central America Philip H. Habib, have indicated that the Reagan administration is willing to stop supporting the rebels, but only if Nicaragua signs the Contadora treaty.

Despite the apparent impasse reached last month, the group set an ambitious June 6 deadline for the Central American countries to narrow their differences at the bargaining table and sign the peace accord.

Panama's Foreign Minister Jorge Abadía said Thursday that two "thorny points" of the pact were still under negotiation — arms limitation and troop reductions, and international military manoeuvres including the presence of foreign advisers.

Even if the Central Americans can come to an agreement on those clauses, the prospects of meeting the deadline appear exceedingly dim to most diplomats unless there is some sudden change in the positions maintained by Nicaragua and Washington.

Mr. Abadía Arias told reporters Thursday that Nicaragua had made a formal commitment to sign the Contadora treaty.

He referred an April 12 letter from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to the Contadora group countries in which Mr. Ortega said Nicaragua would sign the peace treaty as requested on June 6, provided that by that date United States aggression against Nicaragua had totally ceased.

Meanwhile, Costa Rican civil guardsmen were sent to the border with Nicaragua on Friday to meet anti-Sandinista rebel leader Eden Pastora and 400 followers who are seeking political asylum in Costa Rica.

Costa Rican authorities said Pastora's aides in San Jose already had submitted a written application for asylum on his behalf, and that the request was being studied.

President Oscar Arias Sanchez said this week he would consider granting asylum to Pastora if the guerrilla leader promised to lay

down his arms and "stop being what he is today, one more commandante in the anti-Sandinista fight."

Members of Pastora's Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, one of the smallest of the Contra groups fighting the Nicaraguan government, planned to lead journalists before dawn Friday to the spot where Pastora was to cross the San Juan River. The river forms the border between the two Central American nations.

Pastora's rebels have used southern Nicaragua as their base for skirmishes that prompted hundreds of complaints of border violations by both countries. Known as "Commander Zero" during the Sandinista revolution that ousted Nicaragua's Somoza government in 1979, Pastora later broke with the Sandinistas because of political disagreements.

Costa Rica's interior minister, Guido Fernandez, said police were sent to the border later Wednesday to await Pastora's men and take them to a safe place while Pastora's asylum application is studied.



Man who sold fake Chernobyl film charged with fraud

ROME (R) — A Frenchman alleged to have sold a fake film of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor to Italian and American television networks has been arrested and charged with fraud, police said Friday.

Thomas Garenq, 24, was arrested at the Rome headquarters of the American television network NBC on Wednesday night and was transferred to a jail in the northern town of Trieste Friday morning, a police spokesman told Reuters.

NBC said it could not comment on the report. Garenq is accused of selling a film which he claimed showed a fire raging at the Chernobyl plant, scene of the recent Soviet nuclear accident, but which was alleged to actually feature an Italian cement factory in Trieste surrounded by a haze of industrial fumes.

The film was broadcast by the Italian television network RAI and by the ABC and NBC networks in the United States, according to reports here. The alleged fraud was discovered only after RAI received a flood of phone calls from television viewers in Trieste, claiming they had seen their local cement factory on the midday news.

Cook puts his foot in it

MANILA (R) — Italian pizza cook Gabriele Bruni walked into trouble when he tried to leave the Philippines with size 12 running shoes on his size eight feet. Airport security became suspicious "because he waddled in a curious way" through the X-ray machine "and his feet were out of proportion to his size," said spokesman Sergeant Felix Botardo. Bruni, 22, took off his running shoes and police found nearly one kilogramme of dried marijuana tucked into the lining and the toe caps. Police said Bruni, who was on his way home to Siena after working for eight months on a resort island in the central Philippines, was turned over to drugs officers.

Doctors, nurses jailed for medicine fraud

MOSCOW (R) — A group of Soviet doctors and nurses have been given long terms of imprisonment for stealing medicines meant for hospital patients, a newspaper has reported. Meditsinskaya Gazeta (medical gazette) said the group, from southern Russia, replaced the medicines with cheap and ineffective substitutes — and sometimes with none at all. They then swapped the real medicines for bottles of alcohol on the black market. The newspaper did not say if anyone died as a result of the fraud or when it took place.

20 hurt as patients attack striking doctors

MYMENSINGH, Bangladesh (R) — At least 20 doctors were injured in attacks by patients at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in northern Bangladesh, medical authorities said. They said angry patients smashed the doors and windows of dormitories, ransacked offices and chased staff in protest at a month-long strike by junior doctors demanding permanent jobs. Police said some patients fled the hospital and raided several private clinics, apparently to show their opposition to high treatment charges. They gave no further details.

Father watches as killer son executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (R) — A double killer who converted to Islam during his spell on death row was executed by lethal injection after a short, calm conversation with his father. Jay Kelly Pinkerton, 24, was convicted of killing a woman he stabbed more than 30 times and sexually mutilated after breaking into her home. He was also under death sentence for the knife killing of another woman. Pinkerton asked his family to witness the execution but his mother and others did not want to see him die and only his father was present. He uttered a prayer and a chant in Arabic after the injection, said twice: "I feel dizziness," yawned, and died. Prison officials predicted his execution could start a flood in Texas, where there are more than 200 killers on death row. Pinkerton was the third to die this year and 13th since the state resumed executions in 1982.